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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-121
Friday
22 June 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-121 | *22 June 1990*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Reacts to U.S. Dialogue Suspension

Issues Statement

LD2106160190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1412 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, June 21 (KUNA)—The Arab League has regretted the decision suspending the 18-month-old dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, (?saying) it was not in the interest of peace efforts in the Middle East.

A statement released today by the 21-country league said the justifications for putting off the dialogue would not convince anyone as the PLO had disassociated itself from the recent attack on Israeli beaches by a Palestinian (?action).

The Arab League called on the U.S. Administration to reconsider its decision as the dialogue with the organization was in the interests of [word indistinct] cause and not a [words indistinct] the PLO.

Labelling the American decision a negative development, the Arab League said it was interpreted in Israel as a boost to extremist parties opposing to all international peace efforts, including that of the administration's Secretary of State James Baker.

The statement said the U.S. will be held responsible for deterioration of situation inside occupied Arab territories due to suspension of dialogue with the PLO and its incessant support to Israel.

Says Extremists Encouraged

LD2106165990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] The peace-loving quarters received the U.S. decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO with great anxiety and see it as a gift to Shamir and a punishment to the side that responded to the peace requirements.

The Arab League stressed that this decision does not serve the efforts exerted to achieve peace in the Middle East. The League pointed out that the dialogue with the PLO serves the interests of peace and is not a reward to the PLO.

The statement, which was issued in this context, points out that this decision strengthens the extremist tendencies which reject all international efforts and initiatives, including James Baker's initiative. The statement puts the responsibility for the deterioration of the situation within the occupied territories on the shoulders of the U.S. Administration.

Mr. Hamadi (Esseid), director of the Arab League bureau in Paris, accused the United States of adopting a double standard, one for the Palestinians and another for Israel, by which it encourages the extremists and justifies the actions of some of them. He called for not making more of the U.S. decision than it deserves because the so-called U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, after 18 months, has not produced any tangible result except gratifying Washington's propaganda conscience.

Klibi To Meet With 'Arafat

JN2106165690 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Jordan today regretted the United States' decision to suspend its 18-month dialogue with the PLO and hoped that Washington would change its mind. [passage omitted]

And in Tunis, the Arab League said the U.S. decision to suspend talks with the PLO was regrettable and unjustified.

In a statement released today, the Arab League expressed its regret at this negative development, and hoped the U.S. Administration would reconsider its decision in the conviction that dialogue with the PLO is a service to the cause of peace and not a reward to the organization.

The statement said that the Arab League thinks that it has a duty to draw attention to the grave dangers resulting from Israel's extremist policy and to the responsibility which the U.S. Administration bears for the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories as a result of its decision to halt the dialogue. [passage omitted]

Also today, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi flew to Baghdad to meet Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat about the U.S. decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO. President 'Arafat is discussing the suspension at a meeting in the Iraqi capital of the PLO's 15-man Executive Committee. The Committee is expected to release a statement later today.

Leaders Discuss UN Session

JN2206101490 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today cites informed Arab sources in Amman as saying that intensive contacts have been held over the past few hours among a number of Arab capitals to discuss calling the UN General Assembly to hold a special session at the UN European headquarters in Geneva. The meeting would study the serious developments in the Middle East following the failure of peace efforts as a result of the U.S. suspension of the dialogue with the PLO and the growing Israeli threats against Arab states, which endanger peace in the region.

The same sources told the newspaper that the call for a special session was the subject of intensive consultations between the Jordanian monarch and the Iraqi president, and between Palestinian leaders and the Arab League secretary general, who left afterward for Amman accompanied by Palestinian Ambassador [in Tunis] Hakam Bal'awi. The latter will hold further consultations with Jordanian leaders on an Arab reply to the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO.

Islamic Conference Denounces Liberian 'Massacres'

LD2006233290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 Jun (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) has expressed astonishment at the ugly massacres that have been lately committed against Muslims in the Nasba region of Liberia. The ICO Secretariat has said in a statement issued by its secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, that reports reaching it spoke of armed groups from some Christian tribes in that region that "had burned a large number of Islamic villages and destroyed their mosques, and killed women, children, and old people, among them 75 preachers." The secretariat has confirmed that "this mad and criminal act had forced thousands of Muslims to leave their villages and possessions, and resulted in more than 100,000 Muslims seeking shelter in Guinea and the Ivory Coast, while others spread out in the jungles to escape the massacre." The ICO Secretariat strongly condemned these massacres, described them as criminal, and said "at first it seemed that this was the result of a struggle for power, but it has become clear that it is part of a premeditated plan directed against Islam and the Muslims." [passage omitted]

The secretariat called on the Liberian authorities to take the necessary measures to put an end "to the terror and violence directed against Muslims, to save them, and to work for the creation of suitable conditions for the return of the refugees so that they continue to play their civic and humanitarian role in that part of Africa." [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Iraq, Iran Progress in Summit Preparations

PM2106142390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 90 pp 1-2

[Khalil Matar report: "Diplomatic Sources at United Nations Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Iran and Iraq Are Discussing Linking Saddam Initiative and Resolution 598"]

[Excerpt] New York, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed diplomatic circles at the United Nations have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that current talks between Iraq and Iran are focusing on a fundamental topic, namely how to link the Iraqi initiative and the Iranian response which regards Resolution 598 as the basis for a summit between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The circles say that the contacts, revealed by Rafsanjani two days ago, started in Geneva between Iraqi Ambassador Barzan al-Takriti and Iranian Ambassador Cyrus Naseri when the second Iraqi message was delivered to Iran.

But the level of these contacts has probably been raised somewhat, especially as some contacts are conducted in Rome as well as in Geneva.

The sources said that these meetings had been requested by the Iranians, and Iraq agreed on the grounds that they would be regarded as "preparations for the summit," to ensure its success. So what is happening now is designed to prepare a suitable foundation for what will be discussed at the two presidents' meetings.

The sources added that, although tangible progress has been made in the current preparations with regard to reaching an understanding on what can be used as a basis for the meeting, that summit will not take place before the end of August on the most optimistic predictions.

The sources pointed out that no agreement has yet been reached on a venue for the summit despite the numerous suggestions, which include Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Organizations React to U.S. Decision

PLO Executive Committee Meets

JN2106214190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee began in Baghdad this morning a session of meetings to discuss the political developments pertaining to the Palestine question, the situation in the occupied homeland, and ways to step up the intifadah in the face of the growing escalation of the campaigns of Zionist repression and terrorism. Besides, the PLO Executive Committee will also discuss the overall political developments, including U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

'Text' of Statement

JN2206084190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 90 pp 1, 15

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee on conclusion of its meeting in Baghdad on 21 June]

[Text] After one and a half years of maneuvering in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and avoiding discussion on substantial issues owing to the U.S. Administration's lack of seriousness, President Bush has suspended the dialogue with the PLO.

The U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue runs counter to the responsibility that a superpower the size of the United States should shoulder in regard to the Middle East peace process and world peace in general. The decision deals a blow to the entire peace process and also to the credibility of the U.S. Administration.

The Palestinian leadership has taken a clear and responsible position on the coastal operation that the United States used as a pretext to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. The PLO has announced that neither it, nor any of its institutions or forces, are responsible for this operation. It has also stressed that, in its capacity as the highest authority for the PLO Executive Committee members, the Palestine National Council [PNC] is the one to examine and explore the extent of their commitment to and abidance by its resolutions on the national and international levels.

The Palestinian leadership has also stressed its commitment to the PNC resolutions and the declaration by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the denunciation of all forms of terrorism.

In spite of this, the U.S. Administration has decided to suspend the dialogue, thus revealing the real objective it sought to achieve by taking advantage of the coastal operation to justify its policy, which is hostile to the Palestinian people and to their leadership, the PLO, and which denies their legitimate inalienable rights, headed by the right to self-determination. This became clear during the dialogue itself, when the United States continued to act on the principle of not recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative, not recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and obstructing the implementation of binding international resolutions, including the convening of the international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Very regrettably, the U.S. Administration's decision is a response to the demand of the AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] and Israel. It proves that Israel and its connections inside the U.S. Administration continue to control the decisionmaking in U.S. policy on the Middle East, just as was the case with the use of the veto in the UN Security Council following an official and public Israeli request.

The U.S. decision crowns a series of U.S. positions favoring and supporting Israel. In recent years, the United States has opposed all attempts at international denunciation of Israel and prevented all UN Security Council resolutions denouncing or asking for an investigation of Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. To that end, and during last year alone, it used the veto seven times at the UN Security Council and put various kinds of pressure on international bodies to protect Israel and its criminal policies.

The U.S. Administration's policies have always opposed and rejected all serious initiatives to start the peace process, including the Palestinian peace initiative and all resolutions and initiatives put forth by the United Nations, as well as other international initiatives.

While it was outraged by an operation not proved to have targeted civilians and in which no single civilian was injured, the U.S. Administration showed nothing of this outrage toward Israel's crimes against the Palestinian and Tunisian civilians in Hammam al-Shatt or when hero martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was assassinated in front of his children. We also saw nothing of this when Palestinian workers were massacred in 'Uyun Qarah [Rishon Leziyon] or when other massacres were committed in Gaza and the West Bank. Nothing of this was witnessed when Israel used banned gases against Palestinian children and which caused miscarriages in Palestinian women. Nor did we hear a single U.S. word against Israel's daily air, sea, and land raids, which have been going on for eight consecutive years against the Lebanese and Palestinian people in southern Lebanon. Israel also continues to carry out such attacks against villages and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

At a time when the Israeli rulers continue their crimes, intransigence, and role in aborting and obstructing peace efforts and initiatives in the Middle East, the U.S. decision against the PLO and Palestinian people defies the international will and protects Israel and its aggression, covering up its responsibility for the abortion of peace efforts.

The U.S. decision against the PLO comes while Israel's criminal persecution of the Palestinian people is being escalated to destroy the intifadah, and at a time when the new Israeli government is escalating its threats of war against the neighboring Arab states. Thus, the decision supports and encourages the Israeli Government's policy of war and aggression. This contravenes the international community's inclination to spread detente and relaxation and to extinguish the hotbeds of tension in the world.

This decision by President George Bush will prompt the Israeli rulers to continue their aggressive policy and the crimes and massacres of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory. It will also whet their appetite to continue expansion at the expense of Arab land, especially in light of the waves of Jewish emigrants pouring into occupied Palestinian territory. Thus, the U.S. Administration cannot shirk its responsibility in encouraging Israel to continue these aggressive, criminal, and expansionist policies.

The dialogue that the U.S. Administration has suspended was a step toward peace. It was imposed by the international will and the international community. It was imposed by the Palestinian people and their heavy sacrifices which affirmed their existence and their rights against the usurpers. It was imposed by the growing status of the PLO and its increased respectability and worthiness in contributing toward making peace. It was imposed by the national political program adopted by the PLO in the PNC in Algiers in November 1988 and the Palestinian peace initiative that emanated from this meeting launched by President 'Arafat in mid-December 1988. It was imposed by the high responsibility with which the PLO has been acting and continues to adhere to in regard to all initiatives and international peace efforts. It was also imposed by the policy of not being dragged into reaction—a policy that has been practiced by the PLO and the masses of the Palestinian people vis-a-vis all terrorist acts and crimes committed by the the Israeli occupation authorities, which have left thousands of martyrs, wounded, and detainees, and which have not spared Christian and Islamic religious places in Palestine.

Therefore, the U.S. decision neither reduces the PLO's role as a peacemaker nor diminishes its international status, which it deserved and earned through the sacrifices made by its people and fighters. On the other hand, the U.S. decision harms the role of the United States itself in the peace process because it is stopping its contacts with the main contender, without which no peace can be realized in the Middle East.

The U.S. Administration will be under an illusion if it is trying, through this decision, to repeat previous attempts to help the Israeli rulers create alternatives to the PLO. The U.S. Administration, along with the Israeli Government, will discover that they will not find anyone to talk with them from among the Palestinian people and that our people will boycott all Israeli and U.S. officials.

The U.S. Administration's decision reflects the failure of its policy to deal with the cause of peace in the Middle East—a policy based on a complete bias in favor of Israel's viewpoint. While adopting Israel's viewpoint and defending Israel and its aggression, the United States insisted on dealing with the problem singlehandedly, shunning the other international parties and the UN institutions.

And while exposing the nature and dimensions of the U.S. decision, the PLO also views it as defying the recent Baghdad Arab summit and its resolutions, and testing the people's will and their rejection of U.S. blackmail as illustrated in the Arab summit resolutions.

As always, the PLO has been true to these resolutions, committed to them, and resolved to adhere to the values of pan-Arab steadfastness and awakening that these resolutions signify. The PLO has refused to submit to the U.S. Administration's attempts to entice and blackmail with the aim of taming the PLO and implementing its plans against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

The PLO and its heroic people have stood fast in all battles that they have fought and no one will be able to impose capitulation on us or make us submit after this long heroic struggle. As they remained steadfast throughout their previous battles, our people will withstand the battle that the U.S. Administration wants to impose on us. Our people will be able to protect their brave intifadah, to remain steadfast, and to triumph and defend the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, until the Palestinian flag is raised over holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state.

While calling for confrontation of this U.S. decision and its repercussions, the PLO will rely on the capability and resources of its Palestinian masses and the resources and determination of the Arab nation, its national and pan-Arab forces, and its great tradition of struggle.

The continuous and escalating Israeli aggression, which is protected by U.S. encouragement, makes it incumbent upon our Arab nation to face the challenge with all the needed resolve and the responsible pan-Arab attitude, and requires that our Arab masses and mass organizations take the necessary measures to make the Arab response on a par with the Zionist-U.S. challenge.

The Arab states, which adopted the Baghdad summit resolutions, are today required to translate these resolutions to face these challenges and draw up the necessary plans to implement the Arab decision, establish its presence, and impose respect for this decision in the international community.

What is required to face the U.S. decision transcends condemnation and denunciation. By its decision, the U.S. Administration has suspended its ties with an Arab League member state.

The PLO appeals to all peace- and justice-loving international forces to take a responsible position toward the U.S. decision, which leads to the deterioration of the Middle East situation, erases all peace opportunities, protects and encourages the hostile and terroristic aims of Shamir's new government, and steers the region again toward a new war and conflagration on all levels.

The PLO also appeals to all international forces to work earnestly to convene the international peace conference as a framework guaranteeing just and comprehensive peace.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee.

Khalaf Regrets Decision

JN2106053490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2059 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] London, 20 Jun (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, has voiced regret over the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO.

Khalaf noted that the U.S. decision does not serve the U.S. interest in the region but serves Israel's extremism and that it will lead to the freezing of peace efforts and the creation of an atmosphere of extremism that will help the Israeli government to implement its schemes against the Arab states and the intifadah in the occupied territory.

In a statement reported by London radio this evening, the Palestinian official said the United States bears responsibility for suspending the dialogue because this will be a gift for all the extremists and terrorists in the region.

Abu-Iyad said that, despite this U.S. attitude, the PLO will continue to adhere to the Palestinian peace initiative and this decision will not affect the peaceful Palestinian approach. Abu-Iyad added: The decision was made to meet the Israeli terms and I do not believe that we are able to offer more than we have done. We have said that we had no connection with the operation that took place near Tel Aviv, and we said that we are against killing innocent civilians, be they Israeli nationals or non-Israelis.

Holds U.S. Responsible

JN2206092990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 90 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] In a telephone conversation with AL-DUSTUR, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has said that the PLO holds the United States responsible for halting the efforts to reach a settlement in the Middle East, adding that this is the essence of the PLO's position in its response to the U.S. decision.

Khalaf, who was speaking from Tunis, said the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO will "have negative effects on the settlement efforts and will give Israel an opportunity to execute its aggressive plots against the Arab states and liquidate the intifadah. It will also give all extremists the opportunity to express their extremism and violence."

Khalaf held the "U.S. Administration responsible for the decision in all political and military aspects."

He stressed that the PLO "has not given up the military option in the occupied territories. Denouncing what the United States calls terrorism means for us stopping military operations outside [the occupied territories]."

Khalaf said the suspension will have negative consequences because it means that new conditions will be set for this or any other future dialogue.

Regarding the possibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue under these conditions, Khalaf said the U.S. decision has blown up the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, especially since the right-wing extremist Israeli Government rejects peace. Khalaf said Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories, which they still talk about, is a deceitful plan and a lie. He also said the PLO Central Council will meet soon to discuss the PLO's future moves and support for the intifadah. [passage omitted]

Hawatimah Calls for Meeting

LD2106172890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1523 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, June 21 (KUNA)—Leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Nayif Hawatimah has called for a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization Central Council to revise the PLO's peace (?strategy) in the wake of the U.S. decision on suspension of dialogue.

In a statement distributed here today, Hawatimah accused the U.S. Administration and extremist government of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir of blocking the peace process.

Washington does not want any armed resistance to occupation and wants to keep all the Palestinians [words indistinct] the sword of expulsion from organization to gradually undermine the unity of the Palestinians," said Hawatimah. [quotation marks as received]

"The entire world and the Palestinian people have been expecting the U.S. to (?put) pressure on the Israeli (?Rightist) extremist government...the government of suppression, terrorism and settlement but instead it exerted pressure on the PLO which responded to the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and all related international resolutions envisaging balanced peace," he added.

The DFLP leader urged the Arab countries to invoke the recent resolutions adopted by the Arab summit in Baghdad and to reconsider Arab trade and economic policies with Washington.

"We appeal to the superpowers to live up to their responsibilities by exerting pressure on the American Administration to force it to respond to the international will calling for the convening of an international peace conference and placing occupied Arab territories under supervision of the United Nations," he said.

There was no official response from the PLO on [words indistinct] so far but a senior member of the organization in southern Lebanon, (Fathi Abul Ardat), said the U.S. has never been serious in its dialogue with the organization.

Addressing a press conference at the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, the Palestinian official denies that Fatah, the PLO's mainstream, had halted military operations against Israel.

He explained that military operations were suspended temporarily to give the U.S.-PLO dialogue a chance. He did not (?elaborate).

PLFP-GC Calls Decision 'Defeat'

JN2106190090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Asked about the suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue by AFP, Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has said: We in the PFLP-GC were not surprised by the American decision. We know full well that U.S. policy has always been hostile to the rights of our Palestinian Arab people and blindly biased toward the Zionist side. However, on the other hand, we see in the new U.S. position a severe defeat to the policy of the PLO leadership, which gambled on the American position—the leadership that made all concessions requested by the U.S. Administration in exchange for holding a meeting with its ambassador in Tunis.

Talal Naji added: We view the new U.S. position as a historic opportunity for the PLO to conduct a stringent, critical review of its policies, which have been the cause of the present division in the Palestinian arena, the major setback inflicted on the Palestine issue, and the extreme harm inflicted on the Palestinian people and their national cause. We call on the PLO to go back on the policy of making concessions and to return to the national tenets, particularly the Palestinian National Charter and armed struggle.

PLF Secretary Comments

JN2106180890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1705 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu-Nidal al-Ashqar, secretary of the Central Committee of the [Tal'at Ya'qub wing of the] Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has said that the PLF was not surprised by the U.S. stance. He stressed the PLF's adherence to armed struggle as a principal form of our people's efforts to coordinate the national struggle in exile with the intifadah inside [the occupied territories] in order to integrate the Palestinian struggle with its pan-Arab environment and continue the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The secretary of the PLF Central Committee said: We reject the forms of imperialist extortion through which the U.S. Administration tries to empty the PLO of its militant substance. We also declare our allegiance to the PLO and its national charter and to our people's historic, inalienable rights.

Abu Sharif Expresses 'Grief'

LD2106202190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1857 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Washington, June 21 (KUNA)—A Palestinian official, in a television interview here today, said the (?decision) to suspend dialogue with the Palestinian Liberation Organization was not in the interest of the Middle East peace process, expressing grief over such a decision.

The remarks were voiced by Bassam Abu Sharif, who is political advisor of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in an interview with Cable News Network CNN.

He said the Palestinian people will now feel that U.S. President George Bush was not dealing with the situation in the Middle East with a just technique.

It is a grief that the US, the major partner in area's peace process, suspend the 18-month-old dialogue, he noted. Abu Sharif [word indistinct] that the PLO has responded positively to [words indistinct] to solve the Middle East crisis while Israel completely rejected them and continued killing and wounding Palestinian citizens for the past 18 months.

Describing the dialogue [words indistinct] Abu Sharif said it [words indistinct] and constructive [word indistinct] its slow movement [word indistinct] that the PLO has condemned all [words indistinct] of terrorism that led to killing or [words indistinct].

He anticipated that the decision [words indistinct] indignation among the Palestinians as well as the Arabs.

Palestinian Leaders Comment

LD2106191890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] There have been various Palestinian and Arab reactions following U.S. President George Bush's announcement of the suspension of dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

The U.S. President announced the suspesion of dialogue at a press conference he held in the State of Alabama. He said: As soon the PLO is ready to take the necessary measures, we for our part will be prepared to resume the dialogue.

The radio correspondent in Baghdad has learned that this decision by President Bush will be the core of the work of the PLO Executive Committee which begins its work this evening. Initially, the meeting of the executive committee was meant to be devoted to discussions of the latest development of the Palestinian issue, and the policies of the new Israeli government headed by terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir.

At any rate, the PLO has expressed its regret at the U.S. decision. Palestinian leadership sources said that this decision leads to the freezing of the efforts for peace and the bolstering of the Zionist position in the region. As for the national unified leadership of the intifadah, it considers the U.S. stance a blow to the peace efforts, as well as direct and absolute support for Israel.

PLO leadership circles have also warned against an escalation of tension and violence in the Middle East following the U.S. decision, as this decision will encourage the Zionist entity to take measures likely to contribute to stopping the course of peace in the Middle East.

Brother Salah Khalah, member of the Fatah Central Committee, said that this decision will lead to the freezing of the peace efforts and the bolstering of the forces of extremism in the region. He stressed that suspending the dialogue will not resolve the problem, but it will ensure its continuation.

For his part, Mr. Clovis Maksuod, delegate of the Arab League at the United Nations and in Washington, has described this decision as a blow to peace, in addition to its being futile and unjustified, and that, by stopping this dialogue, President Bush has perhaps stopped any important relation with the Palestinian people. Mr. Maksoud pointed out that the U.S. decision is punishment for Arab moderation, especially Palestinian, and a reward for Israeli arrogance.

For his part, brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa, member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that this decision has crowned a series of hostile decisions by the Bush administration against the Palestinian people. At any rate, Palestinian sources were not surprised by the U.S. decision.

Bal'awi Says Decision Blocks Peace

JN2106203190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian ambassador in Tunis and Palestinian representative to the dialogue with the United States, has said that the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with PLO is a veto on peace, especially because it comes from a superpower. In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY during a stopover in Amman while in route to Baghdad, Bal'awi added that hasty decisions cannot help noble objectives and cannot serve the peace process, which needs huge efforts and great patience. He added that, throughout the past months in its dialogue with the United States, the PLO proved its credibility in all that was proposed for the sake of the peace process. However, the process was always hampered by the intransigent Israeli policy with the purpose of evasion, striking at the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied homeland, and aborting the entire peace process.

Palestinian Media Condemns U.S. Decision

WAFA Terms U.S. 'Obtuse'

JN2106181890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jun (INA)—The political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY-WAFA has called the U.S. decision to break off the dialogue with the PLO as an arrogant, reckless, shortsighted, and obtuse decision indicative of political and moral bankruptcy.

In a statement published today, the political editor said President Bush cannot just brush us aside, because we maintain a visible profile on the international scene. He said the United States was the lone, shameless dissenter against international consensus at the UN Security Council session recently convened in Geneva.

American arrogance, he added, turns values upside down and has a skewed sense of right and wrong. The political and moral decay to which the United States has descended has led certain powers to think that they can apply double standards even when there is a clear case for taking the side of a just cause.

Algiers Radio

LD2106193990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The decision of U.S. President George Bush to suspend the dialogue with the PLO did not come as a surprise to the sons of the Palestinian people, the sons of the Arab nation, and to all those who were following this 18-month dialogue which did not rise to the level likely to secure the objectives it was expected to achieve. In our assessment, the U.S. decision-makers have made a blatant mistake not only regarding peace but also regarding U.S. interests and its political and economic relations in the Arab world.

This U.S. decision must not pass lightly in Arab and Palestinian circles. It is bound to have serious repercussions that will affect the bulk of U.S. interests in the Arab world and will place these interests in a position that the decision-makers could have avoided if they had thought seriously before making this decision.

Of course, one cannot separate this U.S. decision from the repeated Zionist demands for the cessation of the dialogue with the PLO. The U.S. decision came as a gift to the terrorist, Yitzhaq Shamir, and as a U.S. green light for the Shamir government to persist in its practices against the Palestinian citizens in the Palestinian occupied territories and to continue challenging the peace efforts in the Middle East.

The U.S. decision to stop the dialogue with the PLO also came to feed the extremist and racist tendencies of the leaders of the Zionist occupation and, similarly, it will feed the extremist tendencies on the Arab side. The moderate side will then join the latter, and so the decision will place the whole region on top of a powderkeg.

The PLO has been keen to respond to all the U.S. requests to start a Palestionian-U.S. dialogue, hoping that Washington would take a balanced role on the Arab-Israeli conflict in an attempt to reach a constructive dialogue that would form a bridge to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The decision by Washington was futile, justified by the operation on the Palestinian coast for which the PLO had stated it was not responsible. The U.S. Administration submitted to Israeli pressure to stop this dialogue.

By this decision the United States has placed itself fully on the side of the leaders of the Israeli occupation on a direct collision course with the realistic principles of an overall peace in the Middle East. Moreover, it has gone beyond this to beat the drums of war and confront the region with an impossible situation that will lead only to destruction.

As we have said, this U.S. decision will not pass lightly, and it will not be like the other U.S. decisions that passed without account. This decision announced by George Bush, this decision hostile to the Palestinian people and all the Arab nation, requires a decisive and urgent response by the Arab states. They are required to boycott the United States politically and economically, and to stop all forms of dealings until Washington returns to its senses and realizes its interests.

The Arab nation and the Arab leaders face a test, and the test is also now to see whether the resolutions of the Baghdad summit were serious or not.

Political Editor Comments

JN2106200990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1851 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Commentary by radio political editor: "A Decision for Extortion"]

[Text] With complete calm and without being hasty, we can say that U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is first and foremost an exhibitionist, escalatory decision whose basic objective is extortion. If we want to analyze and explore in depth the motives and political indications of this decision, we will find not only an absolute U.S. bias toward Israel, but also the U.S. Administration's enthusiasm to come to the fore in the confrontation with the Arab nation by escalating hostility against the PLO, the Palestinian people, and their national, legitimate, inalienable rights. In other words, with this unbalanced decision, the U.S. Administration is seeking to escalate the confrontation against the recent Baghdad summit resolutions which declared the acceptance of the challenge and a response to it.

It is not true that the PLO's failure to denounce the fedayeen landing operation on the Tel Aviv shore is the only, or basic, or real motive for President Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue [words indistinct] (?which offered) nothing in favor of a just peace in the Middle East because of the total U.S. bias toward Israel and its policy and hostility to peace, and even its quest to strike at any serious attempt to achieve peace. Perhaps the U.S. Administration first that the Arab situation after the Baghdad summit is not the same as before, and that in light of the brave Iraqi position, it cannot be contained and totally controlled as the U.S. Administration would like. [sentence as heard] The design to humiliate the Arab region and impose comprehensive hegemony over it is a U.S. design. In view of the new factors of strength in the Arab situation and in Arab political life in general, the U.S. design has no alternative but aggressive escalation to bring the Arab region to its knees.

Hence, and within this context, we understand full well the motives of the U.S. decision to suspend the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. They are motives of aggressive escalation and an attempt to lay the international and Arab ground for aggressive Israeli war operations against the Arab nation. The U.S. Administration seeks through this unbalanced decision to impose and escalate the state of tension in the Arab region. In light of all this, we cannot but declare our regret at President Bush's decision, because it promotes the course that does not serve peace, security, or stability in this vital part of the world.

We would like say, as a reminder only, that this U.S. decision—in addition to all that we have said—is a response to an Israeli request, a request from Shamir specifically, to grant him 100 days (?to respond) to his proposals. And the suspension of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, within this context, is to give Shamir more time and more freedom of political and non-political moves under a comprehensive American cover to achieve his aggressive objectives against the brave Palestinian intifadah, before anything else.

One hundred days without a Palestinian-American dialogue for Israel to escalate the policy of repression, terrorism, and annihilation against the Palestinian people. This is only an American cover and support for this serious criminal policy and its bloody steps prepared by Arens, the war minister of the Zionist enemy, to abort and liquidate the intifadah—the steps to liquidate the phenomenon of violence, as he put it.

In any case, we want to announce that we will not submit to blackmail and we will not accept this formula of political dealing aimed at imposing all American-Israeli conditions on us—the simplest of which is to annul ourselves. We will not do it; we will never do it.

Baghdad VOP Foresees War

JN2206075090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Jun 90

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature entitled: "Washington and the Difficult Dialogue"]

[Text] Brothers, why did U.S. President Bush suspend the dialogue with the PLO? President Bush says that he made such a decision, with Secretary of State Baker's support, because the PLO refused to condemn the landing operation on the Tel Aviv shores. We do not intend to pick a quarrel with President Bush or to react with reasons and proof that any reporter from THE WASHINGTON POST or THE HERALD TRIBUNE could provide to convince him. What is of interest to us is to answer a definite question put forward by our people—namely, why did President Bush suspend the dialogue with the PLO?

First we say that a mere dialogue with the U.S. Administration, the meeting between U.S. and PLO ambassadors, does not in itself constitute an aim, neither for us nor for Washington. The Palestinians and the Americans have always met, reviewed, and talked. Our dialogue with Philip Habib, the U.S. president's envoy to Beirut in 1982, and with many others, was only part of a long line of Palestinian-American dialogues, which took various forms and were expressed in various languages, whether in Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, or elsewhere. However, the American interlocutor should have learned a simple lesson or a simple notion from this old dialogue: namely, that the Palestinian interlocutor is not a soft morsel, not a tender, easily digestible meat.

Perhaps President Bush suspended his dialogue with the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, because he is not yet convinced of this fact. Bush wagered—or might have opened the wagering for his allies in Israel, the new Israeli war government—to reverse this fact so that the balance of power might change and Israel and Washington might have the upper hand in order to impose their plan, the plan of subjugating the entire Middle East region.

In any case, they can only put their plans into practice within the well-known U.S. pragmatism, with its well-known philosophers and their disciples in the White House. Let them try. If they find the PLO flesh to be tender and chewable, let them enjoy it. If they find it bitter and indigestible to the U.S. stomach, then let them reconsider. Perhaps they do not realize that Palestine, that Jerusalem, is the mother of this Mediterranean Sea. This means it is the mother of Europe, and this means that it will always be the mother of the new world. Perhaps they do not realize to whom Jerusalem belongs, because Congress adopted a resolution saying that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. This is like saying that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Uganda or Liberia.

Therefore, and until the Americans realize these absolute facts, which they are ignoring, let them try. Therefore, it is a great delusion to say that the beach operation is the cause for suspending the dialogue, which is a canned, U.S.-made dialogue. Washington knows the real cause. We also know the real cause. But, we will appear the moment the game begins. We are in the arena and the Americans are in the arena. As for Israel, it is sabotaging the game in the spectators' seats, sometimes by building settlements, sometimes with population transfers, and sometimes with occupation and expansion. All these are old games.

The Palestinian flesh is difficult to digest. The U.S. stomach cannot stand the Palestinian flesh. If Washington realizes this, we will meet again, and if it does not realize it, war will be the next dialogue.

Editorial Views Peace Effort

PM2206144090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p13

[Editorial: "The Dialogue Opportunity, The Despair, And The Alternatives"]

[Text] The suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue does not serve peace even if it is claimed that the aim of that "shock" was to prompt several parties to reconsider their calculations and adopted stances that would reactivate the peace efforts. That is because much time and considerable effort had already been expended for the sake of the dialogue and because the PLO reached several difficult decisions to make it possible.

It is no exaggeration to say that the attempt to link the continuation of the dialogue to the suspension of operations amounts to setting impossible conditions. Such operations would not have occurred if there was any sign of a just settlement, and the Palestinian response to such operations could have been drafted differently if the past months had produced any real hope of a movement toward peace.

It is not hard to identify who undermined the peace efforts. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker gave the Israelis the White House telephone number in case they wished to talk seriously about peace. They certainly will not be calling, because the Israeli "war government" is now busy plotting a policy that not only runs contrary to the peace principles and torpedoes the chances of peace but also brings war nearer.

The suspension of the dialogue between Washington and the PLO destroys the foundation on which the peace efforts were based over past months, and particularly the Baker proposals, which were the practical formula put forward by the Bush administration to break the peace deadlock. In the absence of that foundation, which was destroyed because of Israel, it would be possible to speak of a vacuum that only intransigence could fill.

The suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will create an atmosphere of despair and will open the way to a search for alternatives which would take the situation back to square one and revive issues which were already resolved. A return of despair and intransigence to the region seems to run contrary to the tide of regional settlements that has swept the world, and would be even more serious in a region where despair rapidly takes the form of outrageous actions.

Islamic Jihad-Bayt Al-Maqdis Leader Interviewed

PM2206135890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 90 p 5

[Layla Dib report: "Shaykh As'ad Al-Tamimi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Israel Preparing Military Offensive"]

[Excerpt] Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis—separate from the Islamic Jihad Organization—has said that there is a major possibility of a "Jewish" (Israeli) attack soon. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the shaykh said that Jews in Palestine are experiencing a suffocating economic and social crisis from which they can only extricate themselves by war.

He warned that Jordan is most likely to be the target, because it is the weakest link (in the Arab chain). King Husayn himself, he added, has warned about the threat of an attack, and he is more familiar with the situation.

He added that what he termed the Jewish emigres or the Soviet Jewish emigres pouring into occupied Palestine will force Israel to try to expand its territory, because it is not sufficient for them, so they must expand. He said: But God inspires them with mistakes. He explained this by saying that the people's duty is to resist, and they will all resist fiercely. That war will mean the grave for the Jews, because they will have made a mistake.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about what weapons the resistance fighters will need, Shaykh As'ad said: The arms are available, not only to me, but everywhere. He said the arms would come from the Army or from other groups. He believes that the state would provide the people with arms in such situation. That war, he said, could be an Israeli attempt to expel the Palestinians from their country. But Israel is not a myth and can be destroyed. [passage omitted]

Indian Minister, 'Arafat Hold Talks in Baghdad

JN2006180590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, met in Baghdad last night with Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, who concluded a visit to Iraq this morning and left for Turkey.

Informed Palestinian sources said the meeting dealt with the PLO's efforts to relax the tension between India and Pakistan over the situation in Kashmir.

Brother President Yasir 'Arafat recently sent an envoy to India and Pakistan and called on the two countries to hold negotiations to relieve the tension and solve issues through dialogue.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat discussed with the Indian Prime Minister efforts to convene a meeting of the coordinating bureau of the Nonaligned Movement to discuss the increasing bestial crimes committed by the Zionist occupation forces against our Palestinian people.

Algeria

Final Official Election Results Issued 21 Jun

LD2106131290 Algiers APS in English 1118 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 21/6/90 (APS)—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), (?won) the local (communal) elections with 54.25 per cent of voters according to the official figures given by the Ministry of Interior Wednesday, namely 4,331,472 votes. At the level of regional councils, the success of the FIS was 57.44 per cent of voters, namely 4,520,668 votes.

For the National Liberation Front (FLN), the results were 28.13 per cent of voters, namely 2,245,798 votes for the communal elections and 27.53 per cent of voters, namely 2,166,887 votes for the regional councils.

The number of votes has been revised after the counting and validation and less than 8 million people actually voted.

For the communal elections, the results of other lists of political parties and independent candidates do not totally reflect the political "tripolirity" which seemed to appear at the end of the [passage indistinct]. The independent lists finally totalled 11.66 per cent of voters, namely 931,278 votes whereas the Gathering for Culture and Democracy won 166,104 voters (2.08 per cent) followed by the National Party of Solidarity and Development (ONSD) with 131.100 votes (1.64 per cent). The Social Democratic Party (PSD) won 84,029 votes (1.05 per cent) whereas the other parties reached less than one per cent of voters.

Merchants Call 21 Jun General Strike

LD2106051890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] The General Federation of Algerian Merchants and Craftsmen has announced that a general strike will take place tomorrow—Thursday [21 June]—in all shops and commercial houses in the capital in protest against the unfair prices and administrative evaluation law. In the university hospitals in the capital, the strike, which affects all patients, men, women, and children, has lasted two weeks. Citizens are also suffering from the strike of the petrol station workers for the past four days. It is not known if there are any negotiations being held between the two sides. It is feared that matter may become further complicated, especially as the strikers are sticking to their demands and to continuing the strike. The victim is always the citizen in all circumstances and all cases.

As for the oil industry workers, they have resumed work after a strike that lasted 20 days. They were demanding their re-inclusion in the Sonatrach company.

Fundamentalist Preacher Attacks France in Sermon

LD1506194190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Ali Belhadj, the star preacher of the Algerian fundamentalists, violently attacked France and Francois Mitterrand during the main Friday prayers, three days after the overwhelming election victory by the Islamic Salvation Front. We say that France should give an account of what it did in 1945, we have not forgotten the blood of the martyrs and the day will come when France will have to pay a heavy prices, he stated during his sermon. In May 1945 the French Army was involved in the bloody repression of demonstrations in eastern Algeria where the people were demanding independence.

'Forum of Democracy' Inaugurated 15 Jun

LD1506205690 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The Forum of Democracy [Jami'yyatu Minbar li Al-dimuqratiyyah] in Algeria was born today during a general assembly at the Cinematec hall which included a number of known men of culture. The Forum's first aim is to rally democrats around what we may call the minimum of democracy, or what correspondent Fatima Zahra Merzag calls the measurement of the available temperature of democracy:

[Merzeg] The participants at this hall in the cinema museum on Arabi Ben M'hidi Street have come to see the birth of their association, the Association of the Forum of Democracy. What are the reasons calling for the birth of this association?

[Unidentified speaker] Because we have noticed that democracy is in danger. It is threatened in everyday life. We also have noticed that democracy is in need of democrats to defend and protect it.

[Merzag] The setting up of this apolitical association, which does not belong to any political party, is aimed at defending democracy, promoting and consecrating it all fields, besides the educational and scientific activities revolving around the fundamental principles of democracy. [passage omitted]

Also among the functions of this association is the discussion of the laws in force, and criticizing them, if need be, when it is proved that they contradict or violate democracy. [passage omitted]

The association, according to the resolution adopted by the participants, aims to rally democrats, in any structure, around what they consider the minimum of democracy embodied by the state of law, human rights, respect for individual and collective liberties, equality between men and women in rights and practice, and the right for differences of opinion. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Official Statement on End of U.S.-PLO Dialogue

NC2106130090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Statement issued by the Egyptian Presidential Office in Cairo on 21 June]

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt has learned with regret of the decision announced by the United States on 20 June to suspend the dialogue with the PLO in view of differences between the two sides over the assessment of the stand adopted by the PLO leadership on certain operations carried out recently by elements belonging to the organization.

Egypt has always believed that the optimal way to resolve problems and settle disputes among all nations and peoples is direct negotiations and continuous dialogue which is capable of achieving mutual understanding and narrowing the gap betweeen the stands of the various parties, so that an acceptable settlement may be reached. This belief is supported by the international community.

Acting under this conviction, Egypt played a leading role in urging the United States to engage in a dialogue with the PLO so that it could learn directly about the objectives of the Palestinian struggle and the guidelines governing the PLO's policy toward the various aspects of the conflict, as well as consolidate the Palestinian commitment to the peace approach.

Hence, Egypt was the first state to welcome the U.S Administration's decision of December 1988 to open a dialogue with the PLO, when the latter had declared a clear-cut stand on issues the United States regarded as esential in assessing the PLO's objectives and policy. Among the stands stressed by the organization at that time was the renunciation of various forms of terrorism in reiteration of the Cairo declaration, which was read by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from the al-Qubbah Palace on 7 November 1985. A number of leading PLO officials were present at that time. The PLO has reiterated its commitment to that stand on every occasion, the most recent being the statement it issued on 11 June. In that statement, the PLO rejected and denounced all types of aggression against civilians.

The Arab Republic of Egypt believes that, regardless of each side's assessment of the stands adopted by the PLO under certain circumstances and amid growing Israeli intransigence, the Israeli stand has brought the peace march to a standstill. This was clear in Israel's unresponsiveness to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan and the Egyptian 10 points designed to start a dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Israeli took this stand at the same time that the PLO announced its commitment to the peace approach and to participate in bringing about reconciliation and coexistance and reiterated its renunciation of terrorism.

Hence, the PLO was always responsive to successive initiatives to give an impetus to the peace march. The latest of these was the U.S initiative which called for starting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as an indispensable step toward peace.

It is regrettable that the Palestinian-American dialogue should stop at a time when we are trying to persuade Israel to engage in a dialogue with the PLO as a first step toward reconciliation and ending the dispute.

The Arab Republic of Egypt takes into consideration the U.S reiteration of its commitment to resume efforts to activate the peace process on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, Israel's security, and Palestinian rights.

While welcoming the U.S. Administration's emphasis on the importance of Palestinian participation in establishing peace, Egypt hopes that this suspension of the U.S-Palestinian dialogue will be lifted as soon as possible. It also hopes that the negative effects resulting from this suspension will be overcome out of concern for the desire of all people in the region for progress toward achieving peace and stability and ending the acts of violence, tension, and suffering.

Commentary Reviews Effects

NC2106135790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Deterioration of the Situation in the Middle East and the Inherent Dangers"]

[Text] All signs confirm that the concern over an expected serious deterioration in the Middle East situation is justifiable. This concern became more acute from the moment the new Israeli Government of Yitzhaq Shamir took over. Some observers described this government as a setback for the peace efforts. Some in Israel itself have even started to feel that the setback in the peace efforts caused by the new government—which includes the most extreme elements in Israel—has reopened the door for acceleration of the arms race, escalation of threats, and expansion of the cycle of violence and terrorism. It was Shim'on Peres, leader of the opposition in Israel, who stated this two days ago in New York when he addresssed leaders of major Jewish-American organizations.

We do not believe that Peres' statements are part of the competition for power in Israel because, as we noted, all signs and indications confirm that the situation in the region is slipping toward a grave deterioration. Without beating around the bush, the new Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Shamir—which has been in power for only 10 days—has not only frozen the peace efforts but rushed to place real obstacles before these efforts. By this we mean the statement made by the Israeli prime minister in which he said that there will be no negotiations except with Palestinian elements from the occupied territories—East Jerusalem excluded—who accept beforehand and are committed to the concept of autonomy as understood by Shamir. This concept is known. It means that the Palestinians must accept Israeli control and the consecration of the occupation and be content to take part only in administrating their local and municipal affairs. Thus, the Palestinians would relinquish all their political rights, including the right to self-determination. The Israeli prime minister's attempt to lessen the impact of these statements by claiming that they were inaccurately published is inconsequential. His firm stand and that of his new cabinet members over the fate of the occupied territories is known and declared: namely, that this is the historical land of Israel.

These statements prompted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to make sharp statements in which he criticized Shamir's stand. The Israeli prime minister's stand also prompted U.S. President George Bush to ask him to define the policy of his new government and its stand on the efforts to revive the peace efforts. No one knows what the stand of the Israeli prime minister will be, though it is probable that he will not abandon any of his stands, particularly following the U.S. President's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. This decision will encourage Shamir not to abandon his stands that are impeding the peace process and will make him more convinced that the Israeli practices enjoy U.S. support. This in turn will distance him from the peace demands and the peaceful Palestinian and Arab tendencies.

There are other reports that Shamir's advisers are now redrawing Israel's policy with the focus being on negotiating and seeking peace with the Arab countries instead of limiting the issue to one of merely dealing with the Palestinians. This means an attempt to circumvent the Palestinian problem which is the crux of the Middle East problem. There can be no peace in the region without solving this problem on a just basis and in accordance with international legitimacy. We must mention here the fact, which must be clear to all, that the Palestinian people and the Arab countries and peoples are fully aware of the dangers that may result from the new Israeli Government's continued aggressive and expansionist tendencies. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories understand the repression and terrorism they will face to force them to abandon their intifadah. These people are determined to continue to stand fast and resist, regardless of the sacrifices. The Arab countries and peoples will not abandon their support for the Palestinian struggle nor will they stop defending themselves and their rights.

Iraqi Ambassador Comments

NC2106181390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Nabil Najm, Iraqi ambassador to Cairo today. Following the meeting, the Iraqi ambassador stated that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asked him to deliver a message to Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He said that the message is part of the constant coordination and consultation between the two countries over international, Arab, and regional issues.

The Iraqi ambassador added that he discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the future steps that will be adopted within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] meetings and the preparation for the ACC summit in Bagdhad in October. He said they also discussed preparations for the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries which will be held in Cairo on 31 July.

The Iraqi ambassador commented on the U.S. decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO by saying that the U.S. stand represents nothing new and had been expected. He added that the United States and other countries must know that there will be no solution to the Middle East crisis without the Palestinians. He said that all those who think of circumventing the PLO are making a grave error.

The Iraqi ambassador affirmed that peace in the Middle East will not be attained without guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil. He said that no solution will be lasting or comprehensive unless it is attained through the Palestinians themselves and the PLO leadership under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat.

Papers View Decision

NC2206105590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0632 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Cairo newspapers have expressed regret at the United States decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO.

In their editorials today the papers said this decision, which is considered to be a strong blow to the peace efforts, turns the situation upside down and conflicts with the American firm pledge to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The papers noted that this decision will not help much in enhancing trust in the United States or the seriousness and credibility of its statements, which contradict its actions.

The papers expressed hope that the U.S. Administration will reconsider this decision, and warned that the prevalence of a narrow and partial outlook will never enable the two sides to reach peace.

Under the headline "Peace Is Not Achieved This Way" AL-AHRAM noted that after the United States had shown signs encouraging the adoption of a moderate and effective stand vis-a-vis the Middle East conflict, the U.S. President's decision shows that the United States is still using two different standards in dealing with Arabs and Israel.

The paper pointed out that before it halted the dialogue with the PLO, the United States made a good effort to break the current deadlock in the Middle East peace process, when U.S. President George Bush asked

Yitzhaq Shamir to determine quickly his new government's policy and position toward the attempts to revive the peace efforts.

The paper noted that this step aroused satisfaction because it reflected some kind of U.S. eagerness to curb the recent tendencies toward extremism in Israel. The paper remarked that the decision to halt dialogue with the PLO turned the situation upside down and contradicted the American firm pledge to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In its editorial entitled "A Weak Pretext and Unjust Decision" AL-AKHBAR said U.S President Bush's decision casts more doubts on the true nature of U.S. intentions toward solving the Palestinian issue and further obscures the U.S. position.

It said the decision is based on a recommendation by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, whose public warnings to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to define his stand on the proposed talks with the Palestinian side took place only a few days ago.

The paper pointed out that Washington's weak pretext to suspend its dialogue with the PLO reveals submission to elements in the U.S. Congress working for Israel and pursuing their efforts to stop any dialogue between the U.S. Government and the PLO.

The paper noted that the American-Palestinian dialogue, which began a year and a half ago and which did not lead to any tangible steps to achieve its goals, will not have any direct effect on the faltering peace process.

The paper concluded by saying that this strange and odd stand does not honor any state that has the standing and power of the United States and that this position will not help much in enhancing trust in the United States or in the seriousness and credibility of its statements, which contradict its actions.

Meanwhile, AL-JUMHURIYAH said under the headline "The Israeli Congress" the U.S. Administration's decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO is a strong blow to the peace efforts, to which the United States claims to be commited.

The paper expressed astonishment at the Congress' resolution asking the U.S. Administration to call on the UN General Assembly to revoke its former resolution, which considers Zionism a form of racism, at a time when the UN Security Council issued a statement denouncing Israeli soldiers' attacks with tear gas on Palestinian mothers and their children in an UNRWA hospital in the Gaza strip.

Derisively, the paper says Congress does not consider Israel's behaviors as racist, as if the killing and torturing of Arabs and making them to strangers in their own homeland do not draw the Congress' attention which only focuses on pleasing Israel and adopting its aims even if they contradicted international law.

In conclusion, the paper noted the U.S. Congress' intense enthusiasm in defending Israel's interests even if they contradict the United States' interests and obligations to its friends.

Information Minister Returns From Arab Gulf Tour

NC2206082690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo last night at the end of a week-long tour of Arab Gulf countries that took him to Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the tour, al-Sharif conveyed written messages from President Husni Mubarak to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah dealing with Arab situation and issues of mutual interest.

Al-Sharif also held talks with the information ministers in these countries on media cooperation and exchange of visits by media delegations within the accords signed between Egypt and the three countries.

3-Year 'Space Channel' Lease With Arabsat Signed

JN1506103090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jun 90 p 10

[By Salamah Hasan]

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif yesterday witnessed the signing of an agreement between Egypt and Arabsat under which Egypt is to lease the ultra-high frequency space channel for three years starting from 1 November 1990.

The agreement was signed on the Egyptian side by Engineer Fathi al-Bayumi, chairman of the board of trustees for the radio and television corporation, and on the Arabsat side by its general manager.

Mr. Safwat al-Sharif said the agreement is considered a major development and an important media step at the end of the 20th century. This is something Egyptian media has been committed to under President Husni Mubarak: to push Egyptian media away from its internal limits and over to Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Arab world. This channel is now called the international Egyptian space channel.

He added that there will be various stages in starting international transmission. The first stage will start with a program without economic revenues and with special transmission on the first and second channels, in addition to newscasts in various languages on the second channel which are developed and expanded. The second stage will be an economically developed one with its own distinguished character and many languages.

Paper Attacks Israeli Commanders' War Statements

NC1406145290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—The Egyptian paper AL-AKHBAR criticizes the irresponsible statements uttered by some Israeli military commanders regarding Israel's readiness to launch a new war against certain Arab states.

In its Thrusday edition, the paper says: When the mind becomes lethargic and reaches a state of arrogance, blinding sight and paralyzing thought, then you can expect stupid conduct and thoughtless, frivolous, unwise, and short-sighted actions. AL-AKHBAR points out that it appears that the Israeli leaders have reached this stage, which is accompanied by some sort of megalomania giving them the impression that they are made of better stuff the rest of mankind and that they have the means and talents to achieve their goals without any difficulty.

AL-AKHBAR says that those who are now beating war drums in Tel Aviv forget that the situation in the region now is not what it was in the recent past and that any state which initiates aggression will not be able to fortify every nook and cranny against the reaction which must follow to confront the aggression.

The paper asks the wise men in Israel, if any are left, to reconsider their calculations before igniting their fire and to understand that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to contain the fire and prevent its flames from quickly reaching every area. It says that Shamir and his band must remember the famous proverb which says that most fires are caused by a small spark. In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says that it is ridiculous that Shamir should reiterate his old allegation that his new government will not abandon the peace efforts.

Paper on Baker's Statement, 'Explosive' Situation

NC1406144190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: "Shamir's Statements Contribute To the Escalation of Tension in the Region"]

[Text] For Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to declare that his newly formed government will not give up its endeavors to establish peace in the region is quite strange, and even ridiculous. Within the atmosphere of fanaticism and extremism that dominates the minds of some Israeli leaders, and which has led to the formation of a government under Shamir made up of the most extreme of extremists and expansionists, Israel's talk about peace seems meaningless and nothing more than an attempt to gain time. This is particulary true in view of the new development; namely, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's strong criticism of the Israeli conditions declared by Shamir regarding talks with the Palestinians.

Baker has made it clear beyond any doubt that peace in the region cannot be achieved if the new Israeli Government insists on these conditions. Therefore, it has become essential for Israel to show goodwill, said Baker, whose criticism of Israel went as far as emphasizing that Israel is not yet ready to begin peace talks with the Palestinians. Addressing the Israelis, Baker said: When you are serious about peace, call us.

The Shamir government's insistence on its conditions naturally means that it will be impossible to hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and that, consequently, there will be no peace in the region. The situation would become even more serious if things in the region were to go back to what they used to be in the past; there would then be a strong possibility of graver developments, the dangerous results of which would affect Israel more than the Arabs, particularly since the United States would not be able to continue its peace efforts.

In fact this is the direct reason for the intensive international efforts exerted in the past few days to contain the rising tension in the Middle East. After his second telephone conversation with President Mubarak in five days, President Bush said yesterday that the United States is holding extensive contacts with the parties concerned to contain the crisis caused by the Palestinian fedayeen operation near the Tel Aviv coast as well as by some recent Israeli statements, which contributed to the escalation of tension in the region. These statements revealed beyond any doubt the principles governing the policy of the new Israeli Government. The most important of these are the curbing of the Palestinian intifadah, the consolidation of the occupation and the settlement activity, and the absorption of hundreds of thousands, even millions, of new immigrants in the shortest possible time in order to evade the increasing international pressure on Israel to stop settling the immigrant Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

By insisting on pursuing this policy, which is the main factor in the undermining of peace, Israel is completely ignoring the tangible peacetime accomplishments that have resulted from long and arduous efforts over several years. These efforts reflected the wishes and aspirations of the peoples in the region, including a significant sector of the Israeli public, which has branded Shamir's new cabinet as fanatical and extremist and said that it will not serve the vital interests of the Israelis themselves.

This is the truth about the current explosive situation in the region. Israel is contributing daily to the escalation of this situation, whether by means of its barbaric measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories or through the signals it keeps sending to the Arab and outside worlds that it will not abandon its expansionist policy. This will not be accepted either by the Palestinians and the Arabs or by the peace-loving nations of the world.

As a result of the U.S. awareness of the situation, Baker announced that the United States is not thinking of stopping the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, because it is one of the signs of progress in the Middle East peace process. In light of the circumstances, it is the duty of the international comunity to stand up firmly to those Israeli positions that obstruct peace.

Writer Questions 'Saddening' Seaborne Operation

JN1306162790 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 11 Jun 90 pp 36-37

["Personal Papers" column by Ahmad Hamrush: "The Boat Incident—Saddening and Provocative"]

[Text] The incident involving the boat sent by the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] to carry out an operation off the Israeli coast is both saddening and provocative. It is a saddening incident because it wasted the lives of innocent youths whose desire for vengence must have been fanned by those who masterminded the operation and whose ability to think rationally must have been benumbed by the masterminds. Likewise, this incident is provocative because it was carried out by the same group or front that planned the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro. The hijacking, along with the large-scale propaganda campaign it created, helped cover up for the Israeli Government's aggression on Tunisia. This diverted the attention of the world's public and made it assail Palestinian terrorism instead of lambasting Israeli terrorism. Moreover, the incident is also provocative because the PLF leaders had earlier declared that they had confirmation that Israeli Mosad agents had been planted within their ranks.

Why then carry out this action which targeted civilians, even if Israelis? The timing of the incident also gives rise to many questions.

These pressing questions prompt us to face things frankly and to point fingers at those who masterminded the operation in closed chambers and pushed a number of innocent Palestinian youths to their fate.

Do these masterminds, the PLF leaders who are also PLO leaders, think that by so doing they are carrying out a fedayeen operation to serve the Palestinian people's struggle at a time when they did not have a plan to attack the aggressive Israeli war machine? The evidence that I advance to corroborate my statement is that all of those who participated in the operation were either killed or captured without accomplishing anything.

I believe that these masterminds thought that by carrying out this operation, they would be avenging the Palestinian workers killed by a criminal Israeli soldier near Tel Aviv. As a matter of fact, these masterminds have turned the growing anti-Israeli media campaigns into a countercampaign targeting the Arabs and the PLO, and branding the latter as a terrorist organization.

If we were to overlook all mistakes, we would have to ask the following question: Did these masterminds think carefully about the timing of the operation? I am here saying that this operation coincided with the convening of the Arab summit which adopted important resolutions to support the popular Palestinian intifadah, our weapon for resisting the Israeli occupation of Arab lands. Besides, the operation was also carried out a few days before the Bush-Gorbachev summit on whose agenda the Middle East conflict must, undoubtedly, have been listed.

Did the masterminds believe that by so acting they would be doing anything good to advance the Palestinian revolution which is illustrated by the most glorious image to the world—the image created by the children's intifadah in the occupied territories? The residents of these territories do not need to be supported by such operations which harm and ruin rather than bring benefit and relief.

How are we then to forget the suspicion that we have in mind that Mosad elements sneaked into the decision-making body of the PLF, particularly considering that Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] admitted that Mosad agents had previously infiltrated PLF ranks? Such a feeling is bound to bombard our minds with difficult questions and make us uneasy.

Did these masterminds think of the effects of this operation which was used by the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government as fodder for their continuous attempts to brand the PLO as a terrorist organization? The U.S. Administration lambasted the PLO and threatened to cut off the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue being conducted in Tunis which was initiated in December 1988 and has failed to produce anything useful. The U.S. Administration wants to halt this dialogue thanks to the pressures being brought to bear by the Israeli Government which is being beleaguered by efforts to achieve peace.

Did the PLF leaders deliberately choose to show they could act single-handedly without coordinating with the PLO? It goes without saying that such a thing negatively affects the PLO's ability to deal with the discordant elements. Yasir 'Arafat explained why he condemned the incident and said that he had no prior knowledge. What then was the objective of the masterminds? Do they want to promote a PLO image as a terrorist organization? Whom are they rendering this service for?

As I have said, the boat incident the PLF masterminded is both saddening and provocative. However, it must not be allowed to pass without careful consideration, which was the fate of previous operations perpetrated by certain groups aiming to impress on the basis of special and erroneous calculations. We all must point accusing fingers at this operation and view it as an act of the Mosad in which innocent Palestinian youths were victimized.

May this incident be the last of the saddening and provocative acts perpetrated by those blinded by zeal and rendered incapable of seeing the facts regarding those with whom they deal and scheme!

Libya

Forces Said on 'Extreme Alert' for Israeli Strike

LD2106185590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] High-ranking Libyan military sources have revealed that the Zionist enemy has moved three Air Force squadrons of Phantoms from its bases in Tel Aviv to U.S. bases in southern Europe.

Reports from the Libyan capital said that Libya has information to the effect that Israel intends to deal a blow against Libya and against the PLO bases in Tunis.

In this respect the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah has declared a state of extreme alert among its forces in order to repel any possible Zionist aggression to which it might be subjected.

Romanian Delegation Concludes Visit 20 Jun

LD2106133990 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 21 June, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Mr. S. Ayoniski, chairman of the coordination committee of the National Salvation Party in Romania and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday concluding their visit to Great al-Jamahiriya which lasted several days.

Commenting to JANA, Mr. Ayoniski expressed the happiness of himself and his accompanying delegation visiting Great al-Jamahiriya saying that this visit was necessary despite the conditions prevailing now in Romania because of the friendship Great al-Jamahiriya represented for Romanian people.

He stressed the importance of the relations of friendship and cooperation connecting the two countries and the need for promoting them for the benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Pan-African Congress Leader

LD1906092390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0839 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, June 19, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution recieved yesterday Mr. Z. Motobinig, chairman of the Pan-African Congress, and his accompanying delegation currently on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriya.

Maltese Deputy Premier Lauds Friendly Relations

LD1906171190 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Malta, Al-Sayf [June] 19, Jamahiriya News Agency—Mr. de Marco, vice-premier of Malta and foreign minister and justice [title as received], has lauded the relations of friendship between his country and Great al-Jamahiriya which are based on mutual respect and fruitful cooperation.

He informed the Maltese Parliament that his country was keen on promoting its relations of cooperation and friendship with Great al-Jamahiriya to serve the common interests of both peoples.

Maghreb Union Engineers Meet on Projects

LD1906171390 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Al-Sayf [June] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In Tripoli yesterday, the Supreme Council of Arab Maghreb Union of engineering commissions concluded its session discussing over two days the items on the agenda including laying an emphasis on the important role to be assumed by this council in the engineering and technical (?ventures).

An agreement was reached on forming committees to lay down appropriate studies to achieve economic and technical integration in Arab Maghreb Union.

The participants also agreed on releasing a call called Tripoli Call stressing the keen desire on the part of the engineering commissions of this union to support the union and contribute in promoting it mobilising all the potentials in this regard.

An emphasis was laid on the preparedness to draw up a draft technical and engineering project to further the scientific achievements in the union to make successful the projects and plans of this union in the technical and engineering fields.

The participation of these projects and programmes of the engineering commissions in the union from the outset in the development plans is compatible with the scientific view held by the union.

Sudan

Envoy to Morocco Assails Government, Resigns

LD2106140990 Rabat MAP in English 1131 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Rabat, Jun 21 - (MAP)—Sudan's Ambassador to Rabat 'Abdallah Mahjoub last Monday [18 June] resigned from his post as diplomat at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, reported Tuesday [19 June] the Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. The daily stated that the Sudanese diplomat had explained in 'an open letter' to Sudanese authorities the reasons behind his decision and particularly criticized the government's policy.

The Sudanese Foreign Department had asked Mahjoub, who assumed his function in Rabat only some five months ago, to immediately return home to explain the reasons prompting his decision, the daily stated. According to the daily, Mahjoub would go to New York where his family is settled.

Moroccan daily 'RISALAT AL-UMMAH' this Wednesday [20 June] published a statement by Mahjoub wherein he explains that his resignation was mainly prompted by the new orientation lately adopted by Sudanese diplomacy which is completely under the control of Islamic fundamentalists.

Mahjoub told the Moraccan daily his resignation will be followed by that of other diplomats to protest over the new orientations the regime of General al-Bashir dictated to Sudanese embassies. The former ambassador also criticized Khartoum for the appointment of members of 'Jemaates Islamyia' (Islamic associations) who back the al-Bashir regime as diplomats.

Mahjoub also criticized the Sudanese rulers for having prejudiced Moroccan-Sudanese relations when they received in 1989 in Khartoum the president of the so-called 'SADR' [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic].

He recalled that he had then attracted the Sudanese officials' attention to the negative incidence which visit would have on Moroccan-Sudanese relations pointing out that Morocco had always stood by Sudan whenever affected by natural [word indistinct] or famines.

Ministry Moves To Control Relief Supplies

EA2106201190 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jun (SUNA)—A serious step for greater control on relief supplies has been taken by the Ministry of Relief and Displaced Affairs, said minister of relief and displaced affairs Peter Orat. Speaking to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH", Orat explained that all the relief organisations working in Sudan were informed on the importance of getting permission for the stuffs they transport to the needy areas.

Tunisia

Spokesman 'Very Much Regrets' U.S. Decision

LD2106232790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Tunisian Republic very much regrets the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. Such a dialogue, which Tunisia had encouraged and had been its venue, was a source for optimism and hope to bring the parties closer and to facilitate understanding between them. The suspension of the dialogue will not, furthermore, help the cause of peace in the Middle East, rather it is a threat to those who pinned their hopes on a process whose aim was to find a comprehensive and lasting peace to the Palestinian problem.

At a time when the PLO has repeatedly expressed, through its peace initiatives, its readiness to go along with the peace process, Israel has reciprocated with its intransigence and refusal to accept international legimacy and all other peaceful efforts, regardless of their sources. At a time when Israel is pursuing a more extremist policy the decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will only encourage it further to prolong such a policy and to suppress the Palestinian people's intifadah and legitimate struggle.

Tunisia, which has followed with interest and optimism the U.S. Administration's effort to achieve peace in the Middle East, urges the U.S. Administration to reconsider its decision and bring pressure to bear upon Israel to heed the international community's will and to agree to enter seriously into a peace process in accordance with the atmosphere of concord and peace prevalent in international relations.

Prime Minister Talks With Niger President

LD2106074790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Before the opening of the Francophone summit, Prime Minister Mr Hamed Karoui, held talks yesterday with President of Niger Mr. Ali Saibou, and conveyed to him the greetings of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The meeting was an opportunity to review bilateral relations, which were described by both sides as longstanding and distinguished.

The prime minister expressed the readiness of Tunisia to promote cooperation with Niger in all fields. In this context he reiterated the Tunisian resolution to contribute to the reorganization of the Development Bank in the Republic of Niger, which was formed in 1961 with financial and technical contributions from the Tunisian company of the bank.

At the end of the meeting, President Ali Saibou urged Mr. Hamed Karoui to convey to President Ben Ali his fraternal greetings and respect.

Kuwait

EC President Collins Arrives in Kuwait

Agenda Previewed

LD1506200490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1818 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, 15 June, (KUNA)—The Irish foreign minister, Gerard Collins, has arrived here this evening for a two day visit. He was welcomed on his arrival by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, Faysal Salih al-Mutaww'a, acting undersecretary and a number of officials from the Ministry. He is scheduled to meet his highness the amir, and his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, tomorrow. Mr. Collins, who is the current president of the EEC Commission, will also have talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Salim al-Ahmad and the minister of oil, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adbi concerning bilateral relations, the European-Gulf dialogue in particular, and the Arab-European dialogue in general, in addition to a number of issues of common interest.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD1606134290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1243 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 16 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah met here Saturday with visiting Foreign Irish Minister Gerard Collins.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sheykh Sabah said that the meeting tackled many issues topped by the Euro-Arab and Euro-Gulf cooperation in addition to the Palestinian issue and the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Arab lands.

He said he found "wide understanding" from the European side for this issue, and highly appraising the recent statement issued by the European Community on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Collins, who is also the current chairman of the ministerial council of the EC, told reporters that he listened to observations of the Amir Sheykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah on GCC-EC cooperation, Kuwaiti-European relations and the Palestinian questions.

He pointed out that Ireland, in particular, and the EC, in general appreciate the positions of Kuwait toward Arab and international issues.

He noted that he expressed to the foreign minister of Kuwait the understanding of all stands of the Palestine Liberation Organization pertaining to a settlement in the Mideast region, reaffirming that the EC Ministerial Council underlines the importance of holding an international conference for peace under the U.N. auspices.

Collins is scheduled to meet with Higher Education Minister Dr. 'Ali Abdallah al-Shamlan later today to explore areas of cooperation in various scientific and cultural fields and study questions related to Kuwaiti students studying in Ireland, especially in the medical field.

Oman

Diplomatic Relations Established With Hungary

JN1906180490 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman and the Hungarian Republic have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today, Tuesday, 19 July 1990, and exchange diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level. A joint statement was issued from both countries' capitals. The following is the text of the statement:

The Sultanate of Oman and the Hungarian Republic, having the desire to promote their friendly, cooperative ties in the various fields, have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today and exchange diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level.

Relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Hungarian Republic will be based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty, noninterference in each other's domestic affairs, equality, and mutual interest in accordance with the UN Charter.

The Sultanate of Oman and the Hungarian Republic sign this joint statement, hoping that these diplomatic relations will contribute to promoting friendship and cooperation in the interest of the two countries.

Yemen Arab Republic

'Text' of Government's First Policy Statement

JN1706072290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1227 GMT 16 Jun 90

["Text" of the Republic of Yemen's first government policy statement read by Prime Minister al-'Attas at the Council of Representatives session on 16 June in Sanaa—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; prayers and blessings on His honest and faithful prophet; grace be to God who says: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude God's favour on you; for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace ye became brethren. [Koranic verse]

Brother Doctor Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Speaker of the Council of Representatives; brother members of the chairmanship of the Council of Representatives; brother and sister representatives of the people. God's peace and blessings be upon you. We salute you with greetings of unity, revolution, freedom, and democracy.

Allow me to begin by extending my thanks from this lofty democratic edifice to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid; and the brother members of the Presidential Council for the valuable trust they have placed in me and the members of my government to shoulder the great historic responsibilities and perform the duties and tasks of the higher executive and administrative authority of the country within the creation of the unity state—the Republic of Yemen—the great achievement of the Yemeni revolution, its struggling people, and their wise leadership. Undoubtedly, this new stage, with all its civilized significance, places the Yemeni leadership, the Council of Representatives, the government, and the entire Yemeni people before joint national responsibilities of great importance. These responsibilities require close group action so that we can attain the noble goals of this current stage in order to strengthen the structure of the modern Yemeni state, entrench national unity, and establish solid foundations for the progress, development, and prosperity of the Yemeni society, proceeding from the social, economic, and educational successes and positive points scored by the national experience, for comprehensive construction throughout the Yemeni homeland, and based on the need to preserve all the achievements and positive successes realized by the Yemeni revolution, the dearest of which, without doubt, is the Republic of Yemen.

Now allow me, brother representatives of the people, to present the first policy statement of the Government of the Republic, the Republic of Yemen, in accordance with Article 72 of the Constitution.

Our current year, 1990, is distinguished from the past years of our history and will, therefore, live in the memory of future generations. During this year and these days, God bestowed on our people the task of completing their unity, the dream of Yemeni generations in its most beautiful image. He wanted the light of unity to shine on all the sons of our people and all the strugglers and heroes of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions, which guided our people in the arenas of struggle and sacrifice in their search for freedom, progress, and unity.

Brother Speaker of the Council of Representatives, brother and sister representatives of the people; the optimism and popular solidarity with the wise national leadership during the past days of this great historic period which yielded this great achievement, has gained the admiration of all the Arab people and states and many of the world nations. It affirms the civilized state of our people, which has been passed down through the ages. The civilized transition that has been realized by the establishment of the Republic of Yemen in our united homeland is very valuable and dear to us in recording the history of our people. I am very happy, in fact overjoyed, and very proud to present the policy statement of the first government of the Republic of Yemen, through which I practically affirm this civilized leap which entrenches the reality of the united Yemen, the Yemen of the revolution and the Republic, the Yemen of progress, love, and peace, the Yemen of dignity, equality, and democracy.

Brothers and sisters, our people have confirmed they are capable of accomplishing major tasks and objectives, and though we are going through the first days of our nascent republic we feel fully confident that it is neither difficult nor impossible for us to achieve, with God's help, all the objectives and principles of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions for the benefit of the Yemeni people and our Arab nation. We also know very well that great effort is required to achieve all this and enable it to materialize on the ground, and we must utilize all available material and moral potentials, together with those achieved through organization and the law.

We affirm, therefore, that the cornerstone of our policy is to strengthen national unity, reject the old methods, and demand that everyone participate in the responsibility and work. We also affirm that this statement is more or less a continuation of the march of building and national growth, whose objective is to fulfill our people's aspirations for a better, more progressive, and happier life.

The government has prepared the policy statement on the economic, social, political, and cultural bases contained in the Constitution and all its articles—which organize the relationship among the state bodies and between all state bodies and the citizenry—as well as the unity agreements and the directives contained in the speeches which were delivered by Presidential Council Chairman Lt. Gen. brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid on the glorious and eternal day of the declaration of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. This policy statement is also based on the government's directives during its first meeting under the chairmanship of Presidential Council Chairman Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

All this affirms the need to promote the principal potentials of the Yemeni society and to concentrate on reinforcing social solidarity and understanding based on justice, freedom, and equality, expanding the scope of these social assets, continuing to build the family as the foundation of society on the principles of religion, ethics, and patriotism as a protector and a guarantor of public and private liberties and as a source of energy. The government will work to strengthen security and stability, implement the principles of equal opportunity among all citizens, emphasize the supremacy of the law and independence of the judiciary, apply the principle of punishment and reward, activate the organs of authority and the courts, protect the citizens and safeguard their rights and honor, use modern methods of administration, link incentives with production, simplify transactions for citizens or among state organs, and continue efforts to reinforce popular participation and role in supporting the executive work.

The policy statement consists of five parts as follows:
1. Completing the merger of organs and building the bases of the modern state.
2. Developing and building the national economy.
3. Administration and running the economy.
4. Defense and security.
5. Foreign policy.

First, completing the merger of organs and building the modern state:

Brother and sister representatives of the people, in this field, the government proceeds from its positive achievements, aspirations, problems, obstacles, and available and possible potentials to swiftly advance the march of comprehensive development so it can achieve the desired goals in accordance with the principles and bases of the Constitution and the unity agreements. The government's top priorities will be: protecting the unity, reinforcing national unity, continuing to build the bases of the modern state, speeding up the complete merger of the institutions and bodies inside the one Yemeni State, as well as arranging, distributing, and organizing them in accordance with the new duties of the Yemeni State. This will be done in order to mobilize all the people's efforts and energies in one direction so that all the institutions and bodies can become a positive factor for reinforcing national unity.

For this purpose, the government will present to your esteemed Council a set of laws of a sovereign and urgent nature and will work without delay to complete the other laws that will end the laws of the two parts of Yemen, to continue the legislative process in the various political, economic, social, and educational aspects of life, to promote the bases of the modern state that is capable of keeping pace with present-day life—which is full of developments in the various administrative, economic, scientific, social, educational, and living fields—and to concentrate on the supremacy of the law principle for all citizens without any discrimination. The government will also make the necessary arrangements to guarantee the citizens' right to enjoy the basic liberties and rights, as the people are the owner and source of authority. Therefore, it will adopt the necessary measures and make preparations as soon as possible to render successful the referendum on the Constitution and prepare the elections law and the democratic atmosphere for the elections.

To epitomize the supremacy of the law principle, the government will exert every effort to reinforce the independence, unity, and integration of the judiciary, limit interference in its affairs, and secure easy access to the judiciary for the citizens. The government will also secure more stable circumstances and atmosphere to enable the judiciary organs and public prosecution to conduct their missions and carry their noble message honestly and with responsibility in order to spread justice and emphasize the supremacy of the law. These are the most important bases for achieving security, stability, progress, and prosperity. The government also realizes the enormity and difficulty of this mission, but it has faith in Almighty God and seeks His help, and it also has confidence in the people and their absolute cooperation. Therefore, in order to purify the judiciary we must exert every effort to remove all its shortcomings. And when ye judge between man and man, that ye judge with justice. [Koranic verse]

Brother and sister representatives of the people, the tasks of this stage, if considered a continuation and extension of the positive aspects of the past national experience, are undoubtedly a way to overcome all the negative aspects and are not merely a total sum of potentials, lessons, and experiences. They are foundational tasks for a new qualitative establishment. For these tasks to be achieved and realized, they require that the democratic life be entrenched within the framework of the state authority's organs and throughout society. Efforts will be made to provide every citizen with the opportunity to practice his right of active contribution and participation in all aspects of life and guarantee the freedom of thought, opinion, and speech without any restriction or discrimination. Because the human being is the means to growth, the government will do all it can to provide him with personal freedom, dignity, security, good treatment, and his right to resort to the judiciary to protect his rights and legitimate interests so that he will have the opportunity to contribute effectively toward building the new life and constructing the edifice of the modern and contemporary Yemeni state.

The task of redividing the republic administratively in a way which befits the constituents of the new entity is very important in strengthening national unity as well as the unity and integration of national economy. The government will work toward preparing and presenting a draft law on the new administrative division of the Republic of Yemen based on the results of the committee formed by Presidential Council Decision No. 3/1990. We affirm our commitment to providing all the aid and support necessary to render its action a success. The government will study the scope and requirements of the gradual application of decentralization to run the affairs of the governorates and will prepare the necessary rules and regulations for its enactment.

In view of the government's important role at this and coming stages, care must be given to government positions. Therefore, the government will endeavor to organize public offices by rectifying the laws and regulations on government positions, the conditions for working in these offices, and the rights and duties of those working there; caring for the cadres, rehabilitating, and training them; guaranteeing equal opportunities for occupying a post; and making decisions based on qualifications, ability, and experience. This will retain the dignity and status of public office and protect it from corruption in its various forms to assure administrative rectification and care for human development.

Based on the Constitution, the government will work toward setting legislations and specifying capabilities to guarantee the right of all citizens to education through economic and social growth plans. It will also work on uniting educational and cultural curricula, opening equal opportunities to all the sons of our people, providing them with religious education and upbringing to prevent deviation, and entrenching the bases of national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian education.

Regardimg economic issues, based on the Constitution, the government will work to entrench the principle of Islamic social equality regarding social and production relations, depend on the principle of scientific planning for economic growth, realize equal distribution and opportunity, organize and guarantee the freedom of economic activity, encourage guidance, increase salaries, curb price hikes, control the reasons of inflation, combat exploitation and monopolization, combat smuggling, and prepare circumstances and plan action to raise growth levels.

The government will protect the investments of the public, mixed, private, and cooperative sectors, encourage these sectors, and provide the means for their success. It will also protect Arab and foreign investments, develop the scope for cooperation with brothers and friends and obtain the necessary financial requirements.

One of the urgent duties before the government is to quickly finalize the documents that determine the work of the Cabinet, Ministries, institutions, and public offices based on the law organizing the Cabinet and public organizations. We look with great confidence and appreciation to the Council of Representatives to speedily implement them so that the government will have the opportunity to issue the documents that determine relations, specializations, and privileges to avoid duplication or dependency, define responsibility, guarantee unity and harmony of performance, and realize effectiveness.

The tasks of finalizing the merger, integrating the framework of the new state, and building its foundations, extends to and includes the various political, economic, social, educational, and defense fields. They all target liquidating all forms, manifestations, and effects of fragmentation and set the sound and scientific bases of the new state by relying on the Constitution, absorbing the spirit of the new stage, and responding to the needs of the future to which we all aspire.

The government will also work to prepare a law for political organizations in light of the recommendations of the dialogue committee concerning political action, and to make available the opportune circumstances that enable citizens to exercise their right to organize themselves politically, professionally, culturally, and socially. Moreover, the government will guarantee all freedom for political, professional, cultural, and scientific organizations and institutions, in accordance with the Constitution and the law in force. To achieve these tasks, all sectors of the community should cooperate closely under the umbrella of the democratic climate and the expansion of the democratic activity, within the framework of the components of the state's plan.

The government is looking forward to close cooperation with your esteemed Council in order to achieve the aforementioned objectives—these being a cultural option, a constitutional duty, and a practicable immunity.

Second: Development and building of national economy:

Brother Speaker of the Council, brother and sister representatives: We are projecting to you the major outlines and prominent features of the government's activity, leaving the details for programs of all the sectors for the annual state budget and the draft laws. One of the government's foremost tasks will be general coordination between the existing development plan and the preparation of unified annual development plans for the years 1991-1992. During the transitional period, however, the government will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the economic and social situation, through a unified and comprehensive perspective, so that it can attain the elements and conditions needed to prepare for the first comprehensive economic and social development plan for the Yemeni homeland. This means that we are beginning our action by putting the foundation stones to bring about a general agreement on the development march in our country. Proceeding from this, we will review for you the broad and basic outlines of the government's trends as follows:

1. Pooling and mobilizing all energies and capabilities to accomplish the goals of the general development strategy in order to reach development rates as envisaged by the existing development plans, provided that focus be on the priorities mandated by the nature of this stage, which are urgent, necessary, and play a basic part in easing the pressures of everyday life, and in order to guarantee stability in the life of citizens as much as possible. In this context, it is important to reassert the special importance attached to the integration of popular and representative action in all areas. Here, we also sense the role of the various sectors of the community through the effective and positive contribution to eliminate traces of backwardness and transcend the difficulties in the way of development and the action of the government, which is assuming its role and responsibilities, through proceeding from an understanding of the existing facts with all the inherited burdens and backward legacy—a remnant of the ages of despotism, colonialism, and partition. In doing so, the government also takes into consideration all that has been achieved through the march of the Yemeni revolution, and understands the extent of our capabilities—be they manifest or latent. The government will work to strike a balance between the various

options and priorities in order to avoid various pitfalls and surrender to illusions that may lead one to overlook the existing facts.

2. Paying great attention to the role of the various economic sectors in order to accomplish the goals of the economic policy within a flexible framework capable of pushing forward the march of development and achieving its ambitions both on the economic and social levels, in a comprehensive and balanced way within the limits of our own resources and capabilities. Furthermore, the government will adhere to increasing the efficacy of the state sector, developing its capabilities, remedying its shortcomings, eliminating the difficulties it is facing, and steering it toward the strategic levels of national economy. The government will also endeavor to make this sector dependent on scientific studies of economic viability, and give greater freedom of movement through more independence and self-motivation. The government will work, moreover, to enhance the contribution of private national capitals in the development process, encouraging this through various legal facilities, and providing it with more opportunities to enable this private contribution to carry out its role and shoulder its national responsibilities in all areas of development. The government will also work to ensure legal guarantees for the principle of voluntary cooperative action and its complete independence, enhance its contribution to the development process, and encourage the mixed sector in all areas of investment and among all capital-holders and investors inside and abroad as well. The government will encourage individual production and provide all possible facilities to those participating in it.

3. The government is committed, within its economic and development policy, to achieve social justice inspired by the Islamic Arab heritage, the Yemeni society, its reality, and its characteristics. The government will give special attention to areas deprived of basic services. All this will be based on building a productive national economy.

In light of all this, the government will gear its efforts to develop the material production branches in the various vital areas, improve social services, and extend these services to remote and deprived areas. The government will work to develop administration and modernize its methods and tools in order to achieve a flexible and effective system to control the economy as follows:

Material production branches:

In the field of agriculture:

The government is committed to giving agricultural development top priority in the production sectors to reach the best results in the agricultural development programs as the best means to strengthen the national economy and exploit the huge capabilities of the farmers, the largest sector in society, and whose role is represented by working on the land. This calls for taking care of them and developing their activities through using modern methods to reach the best possible standard of food security through expanding horizontally and vertically. Production can be improved by following various scientific methods such as using suitable machines, improved seeds, modern economic irrigation methods, modern methods to combat plant diseases, developing methods of harvesting, gathering and storing crops, building silos for grain storage, and developing methods of marketing, transportation, and storage. This will achieve a good profit for the farmers on the one hand and make agriculture products available for consumers at reasonable prices on the other.

The government will also work to encourage the private sector to invest in the field of agriculture and stock-farming by establishing agricultural stock companies and agricultural cooperative societies. The government will also support the rural credit banks and the rural cooperative societies to provide coordinated financial support.

The government will also study the sources of ground and surface water and continue to build dams and canals and dig wells. It will pay attention to rationalizing the use of water resources for drinking, agriculture, and industry purposes. The government will work—through the various programs—to combat desertification and sand crawl.

In the field of fisheries:

The government will pay great attention to developing the economic bases of all the existing production institutions and encouraging the private and mixed sectors as well the individual producers. The government will render the best services to the fisheries cooperative societies, develop ways of benefiting from fisheries, and encourage the establishment of national stock companies to carry out the tasks of fishing, stocking, and exporting. The efforts will be geared toward developing the efficacy of the national fishing fleet and providing opportunities for national, Arab, and foreign investments. The government will work toward promoting the exploitation of the fisheries sector to meet the local market fish requirements. The exportation of fish and fish products will receive the government's attention. The government will provide the necessary services to fishermen and promote fish canning factories to increase production. It will prepare studies on the existence of fish in places that were not studied in the past in addition to paying continuous attention to scientific studies and researches, trends, preparing cadres, and promoting their scientific and working efficiency in this field.

In the field of industry:

The government will work in the field of industry to develop and expand the infrastructure on which industry is based. The government will study the industrial situation and tackle the problems, obstacles, and difficulties facing industry, particularly with regard to using local raw materials. The government will continue to work for the best use of available potentials in the existing industries and raise the quality of their products. The government will concentrate on establishing industries that will achieve integration between agricultural and industrial products; food, textile, and leather industries; industries that depend on local raw materials; and construction materials.

In this respect, there is a need to prepare a framework for the national industrial strategy, define promising industries, and lay the basic and necessary structures for these industries in accordance with the resources, developments, and needs of the other branches of the national economy.

The government will encourage the private sector—alone or through participation—and attract Yemeni, Arab, and foreign capital to invest in the field of industry. The government will hasten to present the draft law for encouraging investments to your council in its new formula to benefit from all world economic situations, changes, and conditions. The objective is to benefit from world free market economies and to encourage the establishing of industrial projects.

In the field of oil and natural resources:

The first step in the area of oil production and exportation has been achieved in our country. Therefore, there is dire need now to draw up an accurate plan for oil investments and the exploitation of natural gas, which is available in large quantities in Yemen, to produce electrical power, expand and develop it for home consumption, and study the expansion of its usage for various industrial purposes.

The government will also work to expedite the mining of gold at Wadi Nuqub in the Hadramawt Governorate. Focus will be put on continuing the mining and prospecting of metals—taking into consideration the encouraging results and indications provided by early studies. The government will continue to pay attention to oil prospecting in order to discover oil wealth all over the country, focusing on the need to reach an understanding on the use of oil and gas which were discovered at the Ma'rib Basin. The government will, furthermore, conduct studies aimed at planning oil industries and work to use metals, especially raw materials which are easily drawn forth and which yield quick revenues, or which are linked to local, promising industries. The government shall accord special treatment to human cadres and to the building up of technical and professional skills and specialities through higher studies and programs and courses for qualifying task force. Moreover, it will nurture, support, and develop technical institutions, establish an administrative and technical apparatus entrusted with executing this task, and rapidly modernize the Aden Refinery, adding some new productive plans to it for the best use of its energies in order to meet all the homeland's needs of oil derivatives and crude oil which is locally produced.

In the field of building and construction:

Construction is one of the important sectors linked with building and establishment, which has been the linchpin of all past development projects. The government, therefore, will work to support construction and organization plans, entrench all building activity, and develop technical capabilities which guarantee improvement of execution and quality, in accordance with Yemeni architectural designs and art, and as specified by the nature and character of each project. The government will also develop and unify specifications for constructions, organize and arrange contracting, and encourage shareholding companies in the field of contracting and engineering consultations, and in the area of industry and construction material to meet the needs of local markets and for exportation. The government will pay attention to improving the level of local contractors, providing them with facilities and privileges which enable them to enhance their strength and compete with foreign contractors.

In the field of telecommunications:

Proceeding from our faith in the importance of this area in strengthening the coalescence among the various parts of the one homeland and to link its remotest parts; being aware of the pressing needs created by the process of unity to link all the governorates of the homeland by means of transportation and telecommunications; in consolidation of the fact of unity which is established in the Republic of Yemen; and out of our awareness of a number of considerations, it is the duty of the government to develop and modernize this vital mainstay. The government, moreover, will work to speed up comprehensive linkage of modern telephone communications between the major cities of the republic to ensure communication among the individuals of the community inside with the outside world and serve the objectives and purposes of comprehensive development. The government will also work to improve and expand the services of this utility, develop modern means to enable it to enhance the level of its services in all parts of the Republic. Moreover, the government will pay attention to postal services, expand and develop them through supporting them with specialized cadres and various methods, work to finalize projects currently under construction, and develop the Public Institute of Communications and Post systems, in order to enable it to carry out its historic role in this area.

In the field of transportation:

In view of the paramount importance of this sector in linking the various parts of the Republic of Yemen and with the outside world; in order to achieve the objectives of comprehensive development and serve national economy and its integration, the government will work to develop the transportation sector in its three branches—air, land, and sea. It will also expand in rendering the services linked with this sector, develop its quality, organize the transportation of passengers and freight, and maintain, expand, and construct more road networks, especially the roads which put an end to the traces of partition and achieve the integration of the road network of the Yemeni homeland. The government will, moreover, endeavor to develop the ports of Aden, al-Hudaydah, and the other Yemeni ports, improve their services, enhance the air fleet, and improve the services of airports, whether in relation to passengers or aircraft, providing aircraft with modern equipment, and support and improve the role of the Public Authority of Civil Aviation.

In the field of supply and trade:

The government will do its best to develop internal and external trade in a manner that serves national production and meets the needs of the citizens. It will benefit from past experience in the field of imports and exports in a manner that guarantees the exemplary exploitation of our country's strategic situation. It will also work to revive Yemen's vital role in international trade and build up an effective data system on world markets and international trade movement. It will attempt to achieve two main goals represented by the tangible role trade plays in serving the national economy, and by the provision of basic commodities for citizens at reasonable prices. The government will protect the consumer through a directive and supervisory role over internal and external trade. It will study and develop the real capabilites of the export sector, chanelling it to meet the essential needs of the national economy and citizenry. It will expand the base of surplus goods that can be exported within the limits possible, encourage and extend all forms of support to exports, and plan within the new law encouraging investment in the free zone to ideally exploit our country's strategic location and good trade name in a manner that enables the free zones to play an effective role in serving the national economy and upholding the country's good trade name in international trade and economy. The government will begin by concentrating on developing the free zone in the economic and commercial capital as a first step toward this end.

In the field of tourism:

Tourism has become a prominent industry contributing to economic and social development. It is a strong, living, and growing pillar of this development. Therefore, and in view of the prominent role this sector plays in supporting the balance of payment in countries well known for their historical sites and antiquities, as is the case in our country, the government will concentrate on preparing studies on tourism investments. It will continue to acquaint the world with our country and its touristic importance, as it contains unique historical sites. It will open the door wide open to all tourism investment and will encourage local, Arab, and foreign capital to help establish, improve, and develop touristic facilities; build hotels and parks; devote attention to sanatoriums, summer resorts, and spas; and establish tourist villages. The government will promote and encourage local tourism, set up a specialized institute for tourism and hotels in order to prepare qualified cadres, and both develop and extend assistance to handicrafts as they represent the national heritage and one of the factors of touristic attraction.

In the field of culture and antiquities:

Culture stems first and foremost from the creativity of the people to whom it is linked. The people's life is the basic source of any cultural creativity. Therefore, the government's efforts in the cultural field will be inspired by the principles and aims of the comprehensive plan for Yemeni culture. It stresses its belief that culture is one of the citizens' rights facilitated to them by the cultural institutions through all available means and capabilities. Cultural development is a basic and important component of overall development and the government is committed to the principle of popular participation in enriching cultural life in all domains and to respect for individual choice in engaging in cultural activities. It will concentrate on formulating new elements of strength in the will, conscience, and thought of the people of the one Yemeni homeland by promoting the feelings of love for and loyalty to the one Yemeni homeland, fostering the spirit of national affiliation, and both developing and consolidating the values of the Islamic creed in the people's life, considering it, along with the Arabic language, cultural heritage, and accomplishments of the Yemeni revolution, a cornerstone in the composition of Yemeni culture. The government will deepen the Yemeni people's feelings of national affiliation to the one Arab nation, foster their faith in Arab unity, and promote the spirit of solidarity for the sake of defending the one Arab homeland and achieving the nation's aspirations for liberation, sovereignty, and economic and social development. The government will also look after the Arabic language, considering it an important tool for the Yemeni individual's possession of his developed cultural existence and his connection with the bright past of the life of our people and Arab and Islamic nation. The government will highlight past heritage, restore the historical cities, and search for antiquities and protect them. It will also work to end illiteracy and liberate man from illiteracy, because it considers illiteracy in our country a serious danger to Yemeni cultural awareness and social and economic progress. It will extend aid and support to literary, artistic, and intellectual creativity, and provide suitable conditions for creativity so that it will grow and prosper in an atmosphere of freedom and so that those possessing creative skills will have an opportunity to produce new creative works, discover or devise advanced forms of creativity, highlight the past and present creative arts and literature and make them available for the largest possible number of interested researchers. The state will look after them and aid them in a manner that enables them to live a dignified life and acquire knowledge on the lores and methods of creative and genuine artistic information. Moreover, it will ensure that their works are published and that bridges and channels of cultural communication among the sons of the Arab nation in all countries are bolstered.

It will help publish the results of all kinds of Arab creativity, develop cultural exchanges and contacts between our people and other nations, emphasize cultural dialogue as a means of cooperation and integration with the various world cultures, and achieve the comprehensiveness of cultural participation by concentrating on the culture of children and youths and encouraging women to effectively participate in cultural activities and express their interests in their capacity as a group forming half of the society and complementing it. This way women will not remain mere consumers of culture, something that would paralyze the capabilities of the society and prevent them from participating in creative activities and cultural production. The government will establish the higher council of culture, arts, and literature. Through a policy drafted by the council, the government will begin a field survey of the actual cultural situation of antiquities, manuscripts, historical cities, and all arts and literary works. It will organize quality cultural seasons and festivals, including stage, cinema, poetry, novels, singing, dancing, and others. It will develop and expand local museums and public libraries.

In the field of information:

Information, with its various media, has assumed great importance in our present age in view of its major role in enlightening and educating the public and explaining national, pan-Arab, Islamic, and human social concepts with the view to fulfilling the Yemeni revolution's sublime principles, whose aim is to create enlightened Yemenis who understand their basic duties at all phases of the revolution, especially now since the Republic of Yemen is on the threshhold of progress in the field of science and other modern fields. All this underscores information's important role in the coming phase in strengthening national unity, enlisting all resources for the sake of safeguarding Yemeni unity, entrenching the foundations of democracy and freedom of opinion, and using all these factors in the process of general national reconstruction.

Therefore, the government will strive to make the various information media keep abreast of all national, pan-Arab, and international developments and march with the times, which are marked by competition characterized by rivalry in the information field. The media should provide citizens with the means to increase their awareness and encourage their ambitions to build a strong Yemen reinforced by a national democratic line. They should adopt a clear policy in presenting and tackling various issues, avoid sensationalism and exaggeration, and contribute toward curing social ills such as fanaticism, sectarianism, tribalism, feuding, and other jingoisms that our society discarded when the Yemeni revolution began.

The media should also instill democratic and human values in the hearts of our citizens to enhance the spirit of mutual confidence, affection, and national unity, and thus weave a closely-knit social fabric. They should also assert Yemen's cultural identity and its pan-Arab dimensions as well as the principle of the supremacy of the law in achieving social justice, guaranteeing equal opportunities, and ensuring equality of rights and duties. Moreover, the media should expand their educational and scientific programs, benefit from the available material and moral resources, and also try to develop these resources in line with the demands of the current phase and the challenges of our age.

The government will strive to expand radio and television programs in line with our national, democratic policies and invite men of letters and thought to help prepare programs that tackle various issues of interest to our society as well as our crucial pan-Arab issues. The government will also boost the transmissions of television Channels 1 and 2 to make them reach all parts of the republic. It will also strengthen radio broadcasting from Sanaa and Aden radios to make them heard clearly in all parts of the republic. Furthermore, the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY-SABA' will be supplied with modern equipment to improve transmission and reception. Press foundations will be backed and developed. A new press law will be promulgated. The press will be provided with the necessary means and capabilities to enable it to perform its mission to the fullest inside and outside the country. The press missions in our embassies abroad will be given special attention and provided with all means and capabilities to enable them to perform their role fully as a link between new Yemen and the outside world. Attention will also be given to the distribution of our newspapers and publications abroad to inform the world about our national gains and achievements and our country's stands on pan-Arab, Islamic, and international issues. The national press will be developed to enable it to perform its mission in line with the national, democratic concepts upheld by the Republic of Yemen. Action will be taken to establish a fast, regular news service to ensure that papers reach all parts of the republic in good time. Attention and care will be given to improving the material and moral conditions of specialized media personnel, guarantee their rights, and improve training methods in jornalism.

In the field of justice:

The government believes that one of the main tasks it faces in the unity state is building the modern Yemeni state with modern institutions. This objective can only be achieved by persisting on applying the principle of the supremacy of the law. The government is determined to apply this principle by ensuring that the provisions of the Constitution, the laws, and the existing rules and regulations are upheld first by all officials in the various government departments, and second by all the citizens. This abidance will be a strong foundation for the modern Yemeni state. The government will also avoid any overlapping or conflict of powers in the various government organs, departments, and institutions. Moreover, it will ensure observance of the rules and regulations in all fields and full equality between citizens before the law, impart justice, maintain the law, and eliminate any negative aspects preventing the discharge of justice, whether in the systems or in actual practice.

In order to achieve this, the government will cooperate with the juridical authorities to strengthen the judicial and public prosecution institutions by providing them with all they need to ensure better service and quick litigation. Therefore, the government will make it a point to improve the living standards of the judges and magistrates, increase the public prosecution institutions and courts to cover all parts of the republic by providing more magistrates public prosecutors, and lawyers, and distributing them in such a way as to ensure the rule of law in all parts of the Republic of Yemen.

The government will accord special importance to guaranteeing that all executive bodies respect the independence of the judiciary. It will also endeavor to ensure that all executive bodies and officials in command abide by the binding verdicts of the judiciary, and that they will not hamper the implementation of these verdicts or delay this process. Moreover, the government will work to ensure that all officials and executive bodies will truly respect the basic rights and freedoms of the citizenry.

In the field of awqaf [religious endowments] and guidance:

Out of the belief in the important role the Awqaf Ministry plays in safeguarding, supervising, protecting, and carrying out its duties toward the affairs related to the awqaf funds, guidance, and other tasks laid on the Awqaf Ministry, including spreading Islamic culture and consolidating Islamic beliefs, guiding citizens to preserve their sublime values and traditions, reassert their role in building the community, and safeguard their strong adherence to their national unity, the government will work in accordance with the available resources to invigorate the activity of the administration of awqaf affairs in order to safeguard and mantain awfaq properties, and preserve awqaf rights in such a way as to ensure their proper and timely use. The government will also work to recondition mosques and improve and maintain them so they can be the guardians of religious rites. It will also take care of preachers and mosque employees, improve their situation, and work to revive the message of the mosque and organize lessons for guidance and preaching and religious seminars, so that mosques will play the role they once did and they can fulfill their message. Furthermore, the government shall pursue the good efforts exerted to teach the holy Koran, so that youngsters might grow up in a Koranic atmosphere. Moreover, it will expand the use of the awqaf properties and develop its agricultural and land resources in line with the provisions of the Islamic Shari'a and as a contribution to the state's comprehensive development plans. The government will follow up the completion of investment projects currently under construction, preserve the books and manuscripts of heritage contained in our libraries, and exert the utmost efforts to organize and facilitate their services for researchers and scholars. In addition, it will follow a practical program to print and publish heuristic cultural and Islamic manuscripts in the service of balanced individuals, to improve their ability to assume their social and everyday responsibilities. The government will continue to organize and improve the transportation of pilgrims going to fulfill the rites of pilgrimage and to help them and make them comfortable.

In the field of health:

Because the health care of the individual and the community is one of the most important means to safeguard the most important wealth of the nation—that is, manpower—and in compliance with the most important constitutional duties laid upon the state, the government will accord special treatment to public health, because it is one of the determinants of people's healthy, effective performance in the process of cultural awakening and comprehensive development. This will be effected by developing health and medical services and expanding the base of first aid in all the governorates, particularly remote governorates which are deprived of these services. The government will also continue with the campaign of the comprehensive national project [words indistinct] which covers 80 percent of the republic. It will provide care for the social sectors to combat endemic diseases such as malaria, bilharzia, and others. It will also focus on medical care [words indistinct] and complete the building and refurbishing of hospitals and medical projects, particularly the renovation of the Republican Hospital. It will pay attention to medical diagnosis and treatment, enhance the level of medical performance, spread awareness among the people, and provide medical advice to teach healthy behavior and develop the methods of prevention. Furthermore, the government will focus on developing local production of medications, establishing new industries, augmenting control of and stabilizing prices of medications, as well as of all drugstores in the republic. The government will reaffirm the principle that medication is a service, not a trade, and will enhance the capabilities of medical institutions in the republic to provide qualified technical cadres and improve the level of these institutions. By doing so, we will be tackling the defect resulting from the imbalance between the number of doctors and technicians, through planned appointmenta and distribution of medical and technical cadres in rural areas to meet the country's needs in medical services, improve them, and enhance coordination and cooperation among representative agencies and educational institutions and public organizations. The government will also work to develop the participation of community, government, local, and cooperative sectors in providing medical and educational services in accordance with the needs of the community. It will further organize this medical participation of official and popular sectors, encourage the establishment of medical institutions, attend to medical care and medicine production, and establish medical spas and resorts. The government, in addition, will continue to heed environmental issues in compliance with the laws, legislations, and charters in force, in order to support and develop the vital sector of public health.

In the field of upbringing, education, and higher education:

The government has two ministries for upbringing, education, and higher education. Thus, the government is on the threshold of a new era in preparing and building the Yemeni individual by means of the various sciences and educational development. This will enable him to assume the responsibilities of any position in the society, and will provide him with a conscious, creative role toward his responsibility in building the community and drawing the new portrait of Yemeni life. Therefore, the government will endeavor to reassess past experience in this respect, transcending negative aspects and linking the policies of education with the objectives and aims of comprehensive development. In addition, it will continue to pay attention to elementary, secondary, and specialized education in all villages, cities, and governorates of the Republic. The topic of Islamic education will be given special attention at all levels of the education process. The government will also pay attention to the institutions for teachers, provide individuals with incentives to pursue a career in these institutions, and work to develop their capabilities to enhance the educational sector with eligible cadres, have a sufficient number of Yemeni teachers, enhance their status in the community, and improve their material and moral situation. It will also provide the necessary incentives to ensure that Yemeni teachers will remain in Yemen and serve their homeland with all their strength. The government will also work to develop scholastic syllabi and unify them at all stages of the educational process, in line with the new facts and the prerequisites of scientific and technical approaches. It will also pay attention to the situation of technical and professional teaching, develop programs, and enhance this sector to ensure that it will carry out its effective role and meet the needs of development with technical, specialized cadres, and support the various cultural activities of students to draw forth their creativity. In addition, the government will work to develop the Universities of Sanaa and Aden and their study programs on the bases of the development of science and the character of the country. The government will work to strengthen relations of scientific and cultural cooperation between the two universities, enhance their role as a consultative body to the state, and assign them a role to participate in preparing studies and papers on various issues. This will ensure that our universities will be a source for scientific and cultural enlightenment. The government will also study the bases on which students are admitted to the faculties of the two universities, as well as their structure. Moreover, it will introduce the system of higher studies gradually to the faculties of the two universities. By doing so, universities will be employed in the service of the pressing needs of development in relation to the community. The government will also reconsider the policies related to scholarships for higher study abroad, developing these to meet the requirements of development, and establishing relations of cooperation between Yemeni universities and Arab, Islamic, and foreign universities to exchange expertise and knowledge.

In the field of housing and urban planning:

Based on the great importance of natural planning, the protection of the environment, and the improvement and development of cities in aspects relating to comprehensive urban development, the government will work to modernize and develop structural plans and urban centers in the major cities of the republic in a manner commensurate with high rates of development, draw new plans for small cities in light of urban development activity, and work to protect the environment from contamination. Attention will also be given to afforestation and to defining terrains suitable for construction in a manner that ensures the preservation of agricultural lands, a healthy environment, and the people's needs. Attention will be given to developing environmental services in relation to food control, rodent control, and training cadres. The government, moreover, will work to define priorities for urban planning and housing in the Republic, concentrate in this respect on the balanced development of rural and urban areas, and maintain the character of old cities and Yemeni architectural patterns. It will also continue the completion of housing and urban development projects currently under way, encourage construction companies, provide them with facilities to build houses for their employees and workers, and provide facilities to low-income citizens to enable them to build their own houses. The government will modernize markets and utilities and establish new ones in a number of cities of the Republic. Furthermore, the government will prepare the laws and projects needed for urban planning.

In the field of water supply:

The government will complete water supply networks in the major towns, and search for other water sources to meet citizens' needs. It will also follow up implementation of existing projects and complete current studies on future projects which will cover most secondary towns. The government will also expand sewerage systems in densely populated towns. Moreover, it will establish and modernize water supply projects in rural areas, giving priority to distant areas suffering from water shortages, especially since the Yemeni countryside has expanded, lacking in potable water supply services. Man depends on water in his daily life.

In the field of labor and vocational training:

In view of the importance of organizing labor and all the [word indistinct] policies associated with it, and in view of the growing role it plays in the country's economic and social life and the state's [word indistinct], the government will strive to reorganize labor affairs in all sectors in a fair manner to safeguard the rights of workers, improve their living standards and performance, and provide employer protection to them and more job opportunities. It will organize foreign labor and reorganize the labor market in the Yemeni worker's interest, adopting the various aspects of workers' safety and industrial security [words indistinct] for work and increasing production, enhance training and vocational instruction, instruct the vocational training institutes [word indistinct] and raise the level of their performance to realize the greatest amount of coordination [words indistinct]. The government will prepare the necessary statistics with the aim of drafting a plan for the labor force to organize the labor unions, societies, cooperative organizations, and industrial, agricultural, and fishing unions; encouraging expansion in these fields; working to amend labor legislation to suit social and economic changes with the aim of realizing stability [words indistinct], leading to higher performance levels, raising production quality among workers, and planning the best methods of utilizing manpower to the fullest in both the working sites and the production and development projects.

In the field of civil service and administrative reforms:

In view of the high place this field occupies in the [word indistinct] as a genuine opening for industrial and social development, the government will work for the full exploitation of the [words indistinct] in places that suffer from previous shortages of capabilities and efficiency and the required readiness to work and implement the unified policy [word indistinct] in accordance with the Yemeni Republic's structure, realizing justice and equilibrium in the state institution. The government will work to enforce labor laws and regulations to impose discipline at work and increase respect for labor in society. It will promote a system for choosing and arranging posts to guarantee respect for the principle of efficiency and equal opportunity in public service. This will entail the definition of the limits of rights and responsibilities, and encouraging the principle of righting the wrongs of the authorities. The government will work to expand the use of successful administrative methods in the ministries and establishments aimed at improving the [words indistinct] performance, and giving the qualified cadres enough time to make the best use of their abilities and their practical and scientific capabilities, encouraging them, and prompting them to be creative.

In the field of social security affairs:

The government will help the disabled and adolescents by retraining them to build up their character and capabilities. It will prepare them for positive participation in the development process, stressing the role of social care and its basic principles in realizing social progress and prosperity in general. The government will also expand social security assistance among those under the social security law in all parts of the republic, providing social care for the family and ensuring women's welfare by raising their social, economic, and scientific standards and activating their role in the social and economic development process. It will take care of children, the handicapped, and the elderly by developing social institutions to which they can belong. It will develop rehabilitation and training centers for the handicapped and the homeless by bringing them into the real world, stressing the care of the adolescent by supporting and developing the role of social [word indistinct] reuniting them with their families and developing the productive family project, helping developpeasant societies and [words indistinct].

The government will take special care to implement the social services system designed to provide the necessary protection to the majority of workers in both the public and private sectors against the risk of losing their work income. Pensions are considered to be one of the means of social welfare laid down by the government, providing a kind of social security in case of disability, old age, and death. The government aims to create a stable work atmosphere in the public and private sectors, realizing the government's general aims to develop the pension's resources, modernize the system, and raise the standards of all citizens.

In the field of local government:

In view of the great importance of this field in embodying the principle of popular integration with governmental efforts in the development march to bring about major changes in social and economic life, the government stresses its determination to pay attention to local governments as an effective, civilized means to make citizens shoulder their national responsibility. The government will also endeavor to entrench the democratic character of local governments and protect their independence in accordance with the law. It will also endeavor to improve governmental and popular efforts because local governments constitute the link between these efforts and improving and adjusting things. They also help strengthen cooperation and deepen confidence between the government organs and citizens so that the efforts of all officials and citizens will concentrate on achieving discipline in work, overcoming bureaucratic obstacles, and settling citizens' issues quickly. Additionally, local governments play an important role in planning and implementing local projects in all fields and in participating in the execution of major projects.

The government will give the necessary facilities to finance local projects and to expand training schemes in the decentralized administration, since this plays an important role in making the administrative units shoulder more responsibilities on the level of participation, and establishing new ties among the central organs and governorates.

In order to accomplish this, the government will endeavor to quickly complete the law on local government and submit it to your council. The government is interested in making this law clearly define relations among governorates and the government organs to prevent dualism and wrong interpretations. The government will also pay attention to coordination between the Council of Ministers and governors and will hold periodical meetings to help overcome obstacles.

In the field of sports and youth:

In view of the role played by the young in the advancement of society since they represent the creative spirit in all areas, the government will take care of this field. It will provide it with moral and material support to improve youth's capabilities in mind and body. It will also provide the opportunities to them to excel in all fields related to sports and the revolutionary national culture and thought.

The government will endeavor to improve and direct youth's energies to serve the general objectives of the Yemeni society, strengthen moral and spiritual values in their minds, and bolster the concepts and meanings of national unity. It will also improve and encourage the programs of sports and youth institutions and centers, and organize summer youth camps as well as boy scout and guide camps.

The government will also stress the role played by youth in life and endeavor to create an advanced Yemeni sports movement capable of representing the homeland honorably in all Arab, regional, continental, and international sports and youth events. It will endeavor to help improve the various youth hobbies and abilities and employ them in the service of youth and the homeland. It will endeavor to identify the young people capable of achievement in the field of sports and youth. It will pay attention to building Yemeni communities abroad and organize sports and cultural events and contests on the various national occasions among these communities, encouraging them to take part in the various sports and youth events held inside the country.

In the field of expatriates:

The government stresses the role played by expatriates in the development and achievement of progress and advancement for our society. They are an indivisible part of the people who were forced by conditions and the desire for a better life to leave the country. Out of the belief that they must be paid the same attention as the citizens in view of the contributions they make through their investments to support the march of economical and social development, the government will continue to take care of the Yemeni expatriates, protect their interests, and offer services to them both inside and outside the homeland to strengthen their ties with the homeland and encourage them to contribute in the efforts of economical and social development.

The government will also study and assess the phenomenon of expatriates and the consequences. It will also help in the formulation of general policies to organize emigration and attract highly-qualified immigrants for work [in Yemen]. It will also offer all possible cultural, educational, technical, and youth services to the expatriates to preserve their religious beliefs and national and pan-Arab culture and heritage. It will also employ our country's relations with fraternal and friendly states to protect the rights of Yemeni communities in those states.

Third, administration and running of the economy:

In the administrative field, the government will make it its main goal to free the administration of the bureaucratic restrictions and routine, and to work out an updated and modern administration based on qualifications, experience, and ability to shoulder full responsibility toward the work. It will also focus its attention on the continuous administrative reform process because administration is playing an important role in the performance of the state's organs, institutions, and facilities as well as the various companies and institutions. The government will always work to limit horizontal administrative expansion [words indistinct] the scientific and educational institutions and facilities, and drawing up programs and holding courses and seminars that guarantee the modernization of administrative work and the renewal of its means in accordance with changing circumstances and the prevailing criteria in the more developed countries.

In the field of planning, the government will work to promote the functions, means, and organs of planning to take full advantage of past experience. It will work to develop research and economic, technical, and organizational studies on statistical bases in order to obtain accurate and comprehensive data, to qualify specialized national cadres, to establish a new statistics and data system by using technology and data processing, which assists the decisionmaker in obtaining the most complete data opening up a number of options.

In the field of banking and financial systems, the government will work to correct the conditions of the financial sector and the banking system to serve the development process and determine the sound balance between internal and external economic changes. The government will also study ways to overcome imbalances, especially in the general budget, the balance of payment, and prices and wages. It will also reduce the current government spending to rationalize spending on development, to encourage saving [words indistinct], to increase foreign currency revenues in the various potential areas available, and to organize the surge of prices to serve the society's interest, achieve social justice, and increase production.

In the field of prices, the government will draw up a fair policy to encourage production. It will also work to limit the prices of basic commodities and services economically and socially; it will not interfere in the prices of other commodities and services but will leave this issue to the production and consumer process.

In the field of [words indistinct], the government will work to meet the requirements of sound employment and rehabilitation, to secure labor opportunities, and to expand the technological and professional foundation. It will also work to draw up a scientific study to arrange the labor force and its function and distribution by retraining and redistributing it on sound bases in light of specific and clear government criteria related to job classifications, skill, and wages, and also to work out a system for appointment and promotion based on qualification, service, and skill.

in the field of defense and security, as it believes that the Armed Forces and security are the forces of the people, the shield of the homeland, and the protector of its unity and stability, because they represent a leading national establishment that epitomizes the depth of national unity on the Yemeni land, and because they carry out their sacred duties in addition to their great responsibilities in support of development efforts, the government expresses its pride in the Yemeni Armed Forces and the great achievements and progress they made as a result of the continued efforts of the Yemeni revolution to comprehensively modernize them and enable them to acquire defense and security capabilities. Therefore, it stresses that it will honor all obligations to reinforce our country's defense capability and preserve its security and stability. This national establishment will continue on the basis of reinforcing defense doctrine on modern scientific foundations through a balance between quality and quantity; through the political education program and moral guidance, which will mobilize the energies of the Armed Forces and security, reinforce their determination to achieve their mission, deepen their love for the people and the homeland, strengthen their loyalty to God, the homeland, and the revolution, spread the legal awareness among the security and defense institutions, and maintain their modern means of preparing, training, organizing, and arming so that they can always face up to their responsibilities and great duties to protect the country and safeguard its unity, sovereignty, and independence, and to preserve the gains and achievements of the Yemeni revolution by enabling it to comply with its national and pan-Arab role. It will concentrate on developing military and security colleges, institutions, and schools, and promoting the qualifications of their personnel by updating the programs and reinforcing the relationship between the security organs and the citizens on the basis of trust and cooperation, guaranteeing security, stability, and safety for all citizens through respect for constitutional rights and duties as well as the law so that we can realize the slogan: police in the service of the people.

Attention should also be focused on exploiting the creative energies in the Armed Forces and security forces in terms of agricultural and industrial production, building the basic structures such as roads and civilian establishments, and following through with the reinforcement of the national defense service law. Stress should also be laid on civil defense to provide it with its requirements so that it can effectively carry out its duties in the country.

Foreign policy:

Any country's foreign policy is usually a reflection of its principles and values and its international stature. The Government of the Republic of Yemen's foreign policy will continue to be a translation of the country's underlying values and principles; notably, reinforcing the foundations of fruitful, constructive cooperation with its immediate neighobrs in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf with which we are bound by blood ties, common religion, and destiny, and with brothers on the western shores of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

The Republic of Yemen will work vigorously to promote the principles of peaceful resolution of disputes, national independence, and good neighborliness. The Republic of Yemen declares its firm commitment to neighborliness and noninterference in other countries' domestic affairs in the interest of security and stability in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. It will also work earnestly to resolve the problems that had been outstanding between Yemen and its neighbors, prior to the launch of the Republic of Yemen. In this context, it is vital that attempts be made to work out border disputes by negotiation and amicable dialogue so as to satisfy the legal and historical rights of all parties in the spirit of international law.

Brothers and sisters: Proceeding from a deeply-held belief that the Republic of Yemen should open up new horizons of close cooperation with its neighors, it emphasizes the need to highlight its Arab identity and the importance of its pan-Arab role in furthering all Arab causes and nurturing bonds of brotherhood, cooperation, and cordiality with sisterly Arab and Islamic countries as well as promoting cooperation with friendly world nations so as to serve the best interests of the Yemeni people within the framework of our country's membership in the Arab Cooperation Council—an edifice toward the construction of which our people have contributed so as to achieve economic, scientific, and cultural complementarity among its constituent members as stated by the council's constituent agreement.

Another top priority of the government will be the Arab nation's fateful issues, led by the Palestinian cause. It will do all it can to extend moral and material support to the struggle of the Palestinian people until they attain victory and set up their independent state on their soil with Jerusalem as its capital. Toward that end, we will step up our support to the intifadah of the Palestinian people until the noble goals of liberation, and statehood are realized.

At the same time, the government will do its best to entrench Arab solidarity which was embodied in the clearest and sincerest manner at the extraordinay Arab summit held in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad—the valuable asset which is also the city of victory and peace.

This summit was an eternal pan-Arab occasion for affirming the Arabs' joy on official and popular levels and the congratulations and support for our country—leadership and people—over the attainment of Yemeni unity and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. This strengthens our resolve to redouble our country's pan-Arab efforts, along with all Arab states, to shorten the road leading to Arab unity, to continue the efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere of the few remaining clouds that have continued to fog the climate of fraternal ties among fraternal states, to mobilize all efforts to face the conspiracies being hatched against the Arab nation's safety and pan-Arab security, including the attempts to disturb the balance of power through various means, one of which is Jewish immigration to the Palestinian territories, and also to face the changes in the world. This bolsters our determination to try to achieve these objectives through a firm commitment to implement all the resolutions adopted at the extraordinary Baghdad summit.

In this regard, our country, along with all fraternal states, will continue to play its role in translating into deeds the noble objectives behind the launching of the Arab League as an all-Arab structure comprising all Arab states. Our country will support the Arab League's specialized institutions and enrich its pan-Arab experience, which we are eager to safeguard. We are also eager to make serious efforts to develop this experience to enable the Arab League to benefit from all pan-Arab and world changes and developments and also from the regional capabilities of the three Arab groupings so that it can play its historic role in the life of our Arab nation in the political, economic, social, and cultural domains.

In this regard, I would like to declare that the government is honoring its various commitments toward the Arab League and its organizations and also toward the Islamic Conference Organization and its institutions, which seek to serve the Islamic nation and safeguard its unity and pride. In this statement, the government reiterates its commitment to what the political leadership of the Republic of Yemen said in the first moments of its establishment, which heralded the inception of Yemeni unity—that our country adheres to agreements previously concluded with other parties and also to international charters, foremost among which are the UN Charter and the Arab League Charter. Besides, the government reaffirms its commitment to pursue a nonaligned policy, to cherish the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, to support national liberation causes, and to oppose the policies of apartheid and racial segregation. Moreover, our government asserts that it will continue to make efforts, along with all peace-loving forces all over the world, to strengthen the pillars of world peace and security, to realize the principle of peaceful coexistence among peoples and the principle of resolving differences through peaceful means, and to uphold the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states.

Furthermore, our country would like to assert that it will continue to work with its neighbors to safeguard the security of the Red Sea and to make the Indian Ocean and the Read Sea and their extensions regions of peace free of nuclear weapons. In addition to this, the government will strive to develop the ties of cooperation between our country and specialized international and regional organizations and to establish ties with several states with which no diplomatic ties had so far been maintained so that our country can have a full-fledged presence at all international fora and so that it can make effective efforts to serve the causes of world peace and security.

Brother Speaker of the Council of Representatives; brothers and sisters representatives of the people: I have already tackled the most important objectives and themes contained in the government statement submitted to your Council on which we, our people, and our leadership are pinning great hopes for enhancing the historic victory represented by the launching of the Republic of Yemen. Hopes are pinned on us so that we can continue to score further victories to bolster and safeguard democratic practices, redouble the gains from our developmental endeavor, and enrich our lofty cultural edifice. It is of great significance here for us to affirm that the modern state of Yemen, with its contemporary institutions and with the actions expected to be produced by its constitutional values, presents us with a grave task that makes it imperative that all people work with all of their capabilities and energies. Besides, popular and official national efforts must be mobilized and all the creative and innovative capabilities and resources of the people must also be mustered so that we can contribute effectively toward implementing development programs and plans in the state that cherishes the role of institutions and upholds the rule of the law.

Moreover, we must marshal the people's efforts to help disseminate and entrench democracy, and also to ensure that basic liberties are granted to citizens, because citizens are the noble wellspring of all generosity, the source of all great accomplishments, and the cause of pride on all historic and cherished occasions. This dictates that we work with the people and that we help them in launching this historic phase which requires concerted efforts by all sincere parties so that we can help the Republic of Yemen reach the desired objective and show it as a democratic state based on justice, equality, and the upholding of the rule of law.

The government is submitting its statement to you in the hope that you will grant it your vote of confidence on the basis of this statement. The government also hopes that this statement will have your careful attention and generous remarks. It is also looking forward with confidence and hope to the support and backing of the Council of Representatives as well as the support and backing of all people to help overcome the economic and social difficulties and problems that accompanied the birth of the Republic of Yemen. Moreover, We will work, with God's help, to surmount these difficulties through the pursuit of the principles contained in this statement and also through the implementation of the detailed programs and plans that the government will launch in cooperation with all of its agencies, including the rationalization of domestic expenditures and consumption to help complement the plan to rationalize government expenditure. Likewise, the government will strive to upgrade the citizens' social awareness and enhance discipline to honor the provisions contained in the Constitution and the laws. The government will also make efforts to overcome some of the manifestations of backwardness inherited from the eras of colonialism and imamate—the backwardness obstructing our people's development and their quest for a bright future, such as demanding costly dowries, vendettas, and all other forms of fanatic behavior that undermine the dignity and freedom of the citizen and violate the principles of equality and justice among all sons of the Yemeni people. Additionally, the government will work to hold scientific conferences and seminars for economists, financiers, investors, and expatriates. Scientific and thorough preparations for these conferences will be made with a view to involving all social forces and strata in this endeavor and utilizing their contributions toward building the national economy. Another objective behind these conferences and seminars is to have an idea of their opinions and proposals on how to [word indistinct] economic accomplishments and establish alternative bases for a sound, strong, and prosperous economy. Such conferences must be supported by efforts and studies. These conferences would also seek to help the government ensure a promising, prosperous, and bright future for the homeland.

We are fully aware that democracy is the strong foundation for ensuring a genuine participation by all strata of the people in the building of the contemporary state of Yemen—a state in which the rule of law will be upheld and justice cherished with the aim of strengthening national unity and building a strong and prosperous economy. To achieve these objectives, we will strive to open the widest possible channels for dialogue with the public, including contacts through the press and various mass media organs. The objective is to see the public serve as a helping hand assisting us in performing our tasks. We will spare no effort in devoting all of our efforts to serve the national causes, deriving confidence and resolve from our faith in God, the people, and the democratic option, looking forward to achieving productive cooperation with your esteemed Council within the framework of the integration of all state authorities to realize the noble objectives and goals of our noble Yemeni people.

The remarks that might be made by the Council of Representatives will help us shoulder our responsibilities to help effect positive cooperation between the two authorities.

We are confident that your esteemed council will cooperate with us and that all sincere parties within the ranks of our people will cooperate with us in all the steps that we might take as regards our domestic and foreign policies. We hope that we will manage to make further economic and social progress for our Yemeni people. We also hope that we will help these people attain a relatively good development among the developed community of nations, with God's help and assistance.

Concluding, I would like to affirm our determination to make all efforts and devote all capabilities to serve the people and realize their ambitions of progress and welfare in accordance with the principles, bases, and constants spelled out in the Constitution and also by the objectives of the eternal 26 September and 14 October revolutions. May God grant you success! And may He help us walk the path leading to good deeds and cultural advancement and development! And say: Work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work, and His apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Government Receives Vote of Confidence 20 Jun

JN2006183090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The Council of Representatives today awarded the government a vote of confidence by a majority of its members after discussing the government policy statement and hearing the prime minister's remarks in a session chaired by brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives. The session was attended by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and members of the cabinet. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Reacts to U.S. Decision

*JN2106203790 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2015 GMT 21 Jun 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—Commenting on the U.S. President's decision to suspend the dialogue between the United States and the PLO, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has made the following statement to INA:

This decision by the U.S. President, and the present policies practiced by the U.S. Administration vis-a-vis the region affirm the lack of U.S. respect for the Arabs and a disregard for their representatives, as well as for the entire Arab public opinion. It reveals the reality of convergence between the positions of the United States and Israel in their hostility to the Arabs and the Palestinians.

Iraq did not attach much importance to the dialogue which the United States held with the PLO—a dialogue that remained at a low level and without tangible results as a result of U.S. hesitation and fear of disturbing Israel and dissociating itself from its aggressive policies in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz added: However, this dialogue was a modest attempt by some fraternal Arabs to effect a positive change in U.S. policy. The United States has by itself thwarted this attempt, advancing flimsy excuses and unacceptable justifications. This is a recurrence of previous events. The United States used to propose some ideas to some Arab parties. When these proposals were accepted by the Arab parties and rejected by Israel, the United States evaded responsibility and withdrew from the scene. And here, the United States repeats the same old positions once again by evading responsibility and withdrawing from the dialogue, which Israel rejects and seeks to halt. This U.S. behavior, represented by the suspension of the dialogue, confirms that the United States and Israel have almost become a single entity and not two separate entities. This reveals the tragedy of the U.S. Administration's submission to the pressures brought to bear on it by Israel and the Zionist lobby in the United States.

Saddam Cables Condolences to Rafsanjani

*JN2106214590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2010 GMT 21 Jun 90*

["Text" of cable of condolences by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, Tehran.

Peace be upon you. The victims of the earthquake and the losses that it caused in the city of Rasht and other areas have been a cause of too much regret over what has befallen Iran. I, on behalf of the leadership and the Iraqi people, would like to address to you, to the Iranian leadership, to the Iranian people, and to the relatives of the afflicted families our condolences, and to express our readiness to give any aid which you might deem appropriate. From God we come and to him we return. [signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq.

Arab League's Chedli Klibi To Meet Palestinians

*JN2206061190 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2050 GMT 21 Jun 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad tonight leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Klibi said he will meet with Palestinian leaders to discuss the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the recent extraordinary summit in Baghdad touching on the Palestine question, which is witnessing regional and international developments that put it on the threshold of a very critical phase necessitating the massing of Arab efforts.

Klibi hailed the constant support given to the Palestine question by President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people.

He was received at the airport by the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Desk and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Baghdad.

India Extends $60 Million Credit

*BK2006164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Jun 90*

[Text) India has extended a fresh credit of $60 million to Iraq to buy capital and consumer goods. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, who held a series of meetings with Iraqi leaders during his official visit to that country, told newsmen that an earlier credit of a similar amount in 1988 had been utilized and that the terms of new credit are being finalized.

Expansion of economic cooperation between India and Iraq has been emphasized by both the countries. India is buying nearly 2.25 million tons of crude from Iraq. Modalities for the adjustments were finalized this week between a bank delegation and the Iraqi authorities. Mr. Gujral has since left for West Germany after a brief stopover in Istanbul.

Officials on U.S.-PLO Dialogue Suspension

Ben-Aharon Interviewed

TA2106105490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of Prime Minister's Office, by Re'uven David Miller; on 21 June, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Aharon] We think it was the correct decision, and we hope it will open opportunities for moving the peace process forward.

[Miller] President Bush has stressed that he thinks that Palestinians have a major role to play in the peace process, despite the suspension of talks with the PLO. How is Israel going to respond to this position of the President?

[Ben-Aharon] We agree totally with President Bush that Palestinians have to play a role in the process, and as a matter of fact, Israel's initiative is directed to such a role for the Palestinians. It is just the PLO that cannot be a valid interlocutor in the process because we believe that the PLO is an opponent to peace, is an obstacle to the process, and cannot be factored into the equation.

[Miller] Does the suspension of talks with PLO free Israeli policy makers to think in fresh directions?

[Ben-Aharon] We are thinking in fresh directions without any direct bearing on this particular suspension. But, as you will recall, the President said that it is a suspension pending a response from the PLO, and that gave it a kind of a temporary nature. We hope that the United States will agree with us, hopefully sooner rather than later, that the PLO cannot fulfill any positive role in the process. This will, without any doubt, enable valid Palestinian Arabs who live with us here in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to come forward to participate in a dialogue; prepare the grounds for the elections which are envisaged in our initiative; and hopefully, this will have an impact on the entire situation and put an end to the violence that we are witnessing day in and day out.

Ambassador Sees No U.S. Ploy

TA2106154690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to the United States Moshe Arad by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Since it is now morning in the United States, good morning Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador in Washington.

[Arad] Good morning.

[Shilon] We would like to find out through you, if we may, what is behind the announced suspension of talks with the PLO, and whether there is room for the possibly far-fetched interpretation that this is actually a very sophisticated U.S. maneuver designed to exert greater pressure on Israel; that the United States is telling us: You have no more excuses; the PLO is no longer the obstacle you have been saying it is; it is now up to you to prove the nature of your desire for peace.

[Arad] I suggest, Dan, that we look at all the implications of the U.S. step. First of all, this is a step that enhances U.S. credibility as a front-line fighter against terror. Second, it will facilitate the promotion of the peace process. Also—from Israel's point of view—this is a step that strengthens relations between Israel and the United States, and allows us to cooperate with the United States in promoting the peace process. Any other decision, or more hesitation on the part of the United States to reach the conclusion it did yesterday, would have harmed its credibility both in Israel, and vis-a-vis the moderate elements in Arab countries and the U.S. allies in other parts of the world, particularly in Europe.

[Shilon] You have reacted as you would in the U.S. media, but we asked you to go beyond these things. We would like to explore the U.S. decision in depth and try to ascertain whether, and to what extent, it now intends to exert greater pressure on Israel.

[Arad] Look, I think the U.S. intention and the administration's expectations are for the newly established Israeli Government to continue the peace process. They demand that the process be continued from the point where it was broken in February or March of this year, when the crisis began. I think the government is aware of this; I am convinced the prime minister is aware of it, as is the foreign minister. All the elements understand that the continuation of the process is the core of the U.S.-Israeli dialogue.

[Mardor] Ambassador Arad, does this mean that they are still waiting for the Israeli answer to Baker?

[Arad] I see nothing new in that. Indeed they are, I believe, but they are also ready and expecting to hear about any additional or alternative step, or a proposal for another course of action formulated by the Israeli Government.

[Mardor] President Bush's declaration was received with great satisfaction here in Jerusalem. However, we now hear that James Baker has said that in the long view, no dialogue can be conducted without the consent of the PLO. I would like to ask you then: In view of this, has there been any substantial change in the U.S. conception—beyond the possibly temporary suspension of talks?

[Arad] I saw the same news agency reports on Secretary of State Baker's remarks in Europe. I have also read that these remarks included a statement saying that the secretary of state reiterated the U.S. position that the administration does not intend to bring about direct negotiations with the PLO. This has been the U.S. stance for many years, and it is shared by this administration. It was the stance of the administration when the dialogue was launched; it was endorsed by the Reagan-Shultz administration and by the Bush-Baker administration. I do not believe there has been a change in the U.S. Administration position; it does not want to force or pressure Israel to bring about direct negotiations with the PLO. As you know, they believe the PLO must accept the political process between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Shilon] Mr. Arad, judging by all the reports in recent weeks, Israel's political situation in Washington—from the point of view of its image—is uncomfortable. You appear to be positioned right on the firing line. We heard you are coming back to Israel for consultations at the end of this week. Will you ask the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office for assistance in the form of, if not a new political plan, at least a new public relations tool that will allow you to extricate us from the dilemma we seem to be in vis-a-vis the administration?

[Arad] Dan, I'm sure you agree that my recommendations to the prime minister and the foreign minister should be done in person first, rather than on an IDF Radio program.

[Shilon] Have you not become accustomed to the fact that statesmen conduct politics through the media these days? Look at James Baker with the White House telephone number, for instance.

[Arad] Dan, it is true statesmen make extensive use of the media to relay political messages, but I am the representative of the Israeli Government, and I owe my first duty to its prime minister and foreign minister.

[Shilon] Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to Washington, thank you very much.

[Arad] Thank you very much.

Netanyahu Interviewed

TA2106172990 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor on 21 June; place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, the U.S. decision leaves the door open for the resumption of the dialogue with the PLO. Will the main Israeli efforts now be directed toward making sure that future PLO undertakings are firmer?

[Netanyahu] Look, the commitment is something between the PLO and the United States. Nevertheless, the PLO pledged not only to denounce terrorism, but to take action—by means of expulsions and other penalties—against all terrorist elements or any PLO member who engages in terrorism. It did not do that regarding Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] after the Achille Lauro affair, and I doubt very much that it will do so now.

It is important to understand one thing: If we wait for the PLO, there will be no peace. We will not be able to attain a true dialogue with the Palestinians who honestly seek a way to coexist with us. The PLO is not looking for a way to live side-by-side with us. It is trying to find ways to exist instead of us, not with us.

Beyond that, I think it will also be very difficult to make progress toward a political process with the Arab countries. If we are chained within that PLO noose, we will forever return to cycles of terrorism and hatred. It is necessary to break them.

I believe that this step can advance us both toward a dialogue with the Palestinians, and toward attaining a new arrangement with the Arab countries, which I believe must start with agreements to cease warfare.

[Ganor] From an Israeli viewpoint, does the U.S. resolution indeed pave the way for the resumption of the political process, which was halted three months ago?

[Netanyahu] It creates an important basis for the next steps. I hope that a clear message will likewise be sent to the Arab countries that the path they declared they would pursue in Baghdad—which the PLO, together with Saddam Husayn, supported—is not one which the United States—and I hope other European countries as well—supports. I think that what should now be the guiding line is, first of all, the continuation of the dialogue between us and the Palestinians that are not PLO members, and, second, the beginning of a dialogue and action toward nonbelligerent accords involving ourselves and the Arab countries.

An atmosphere of war is being stirred up here; it is now necessary to foment an atmosphere of nonbelligerence. These are no doubt the two axes we will promote. I hope very much that the U.S. Administration and other governments will back us up.

[Ganor] Sir, what will Israel's response be to the U.S. President's demand, when he linked suspending the dialogue with promoting the negotiations?

[Netanyahu] The issue is not questions of any type—and by saying so I am not ignoring the fact that the Americans have asked us specific questions, for which we have answers we will provide. What I see as important is the fundamental process of a dialogue. We said we wanted to promote a process without the PLO—we will do that. We said we want to attain peaceful arrangements with the Arab countries—we will start to implement those as well. If we reach such a basic understanding with the United States, I think the chances for a settlement will increase immeasurably. I think the latest U.S. step greatly helps in a positive direction, that of the attainment of a settlement.

[Ganor] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, thank you very much.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Opposition Comments

TA2106133090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] The suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, says Peace Now, will benefit the radicals and is liable to exacerbate the tension in the region and jeopardize the future of the peace process—which is contrary to Israel's national interests.

The Israeli Government should have initiated a direct dialogue with the PLO a long time ago. Shamir's proposal to launch a dialogue with the most radical leaders of Arab countries, while totally ignoring the Palestinian problem, is a cynical attempt to mislead the public.

Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen, chairman of the Tehiya Knesset faction, said in reaction to the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue that the significance of the U.S. decision will be tested only when the United States appeals to Arab countries to disband the PLO.

MK Kohen added that the PLO is an instrument created by the Arab countries for the purpose of carrying out terrorist warfare against Israel, and that as long as the Arab countries maintain the organization, there is proof of their objection to peace.

MK Shulamit Aloni, CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] chairman, said yesterday that it is important to continue the dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

Aloni said that this dialogue has the power to moderate the Palestinian side, and that it serves as an information channel between us and the Palestinians via the United States.

She further said that for the good of the cause, the dialogue should continue, since its suspension will strengthen the radical Palestinians.

Media Reacts to U.S. Decision on Dialogue

Arab Retaliation Urged

TA2106170390 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jun 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Suspended Dialogue!!"]

[Text] The decision by U.S. President George Bush to suspend the dialogue with the PLO was not surprising to all those who have followed the process of this snail's-paced dialogue since its launching some 18 months ago. The dialogue, after 18 months, did not rise to the level where it was supposed to achieve the goals thrust upon it. These goals aimed at opening a new page in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, followed by practical steps that would narrow the differences between all the parties to the conflict in a bid to reach the negotiating table of the international peace conference for the purpose of building the foundations of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

From the time that this dialogue took its first steps, Israel waged a fierce war against it. By using its influence in the U.S. arena, Israel tried many times to force the Bush administration to end the dialogue. Israel has been waiting for opportunities, and creating pretexts and excuses to present to the U.S. Administration to convince it of the necessity of ceasing the dialogue. This prevented the dialogue's development, or movement of even one inch from where it was bogged down right until the date of its suspension. This decision came as a gift and reward for Shamir's right-wing government for its continued rejection of even U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan. This is further proof that what has been said about disagreements between Washington and Tel Aviv is no more than an attempt to mislead. These reports seek to cover up everything that Washington continues to provide in order to secure Israel's domination in the region, and its capability to turn down any initiative that seeks to move the peace process forward.

Moreover, Washington's announcement on suspending the dialogue means that Washington has penalized the party that responded to the requirements of peace. At the same time it has adopted a position of adjusting to, understanding, and complying with all Israeli demands despite the Israeli leaders public rejection of even responding to Baker's plan.

How can we trust the U.S. Administration as long as it adheres to such positions embodying the similarity of views between it and Israel's leaders toward the peace issue in the region?

Undoubtedly this U.S. position, which is biased in favor of the party that rejects the requirements of peace, also reflects the U.S. Administration's stance toward the question of peace, the Palestinian problem, and the Arab rights. It constitutes a challenge to the Baghdad summit resolutions, which called for adopting the method of reciprocal treatment for the United States and other countries that deny Arab and Palestinian rights.

Thus, total U.S. bias toward Israel, and cohesion of stances and viewpoints regarding the problem of peace has become crystal clear without the slightest ambiguity. This should induce the Arab leaders to give the Baghdad summit resolutions a practical expression. They should adopt the method of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth in dealing with the United States, and with any country that pursues the same kind of bias toward Israel.

In any case, the suspension or even breaking off of the dialogue will not instill in us a feeling of remorse or regret so long as this dialogue has not progressed even one inch toward achieving the desired reconciliation in the region, and so long as the U.S. Administration subjects the continuation and development of the dialogue to Israeli will, which rejected the launching of the dialogue in the first place.

Boycott of U.S. Urged

TA2106152290 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 19 Jun 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Washington Is Beating the Drums of War"]

[Text] The U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO came as a surprise to observers who did not expect a superpower to adopt such a decision in direct contrast to its vital interests in the region.

In our assessment the U.S. Administration's decision-makers have committed a grave mistake, not only with regard to peace, but also with regard to the interests of the United States and its political and economic relations with the Arab world.

This decision will not be overlooked by the Arabs. It will and should have repercussions that could endanger all the U.S. interests in the Arab world. This decision has placed the United States in a position that it need not have been in had it thought well beforehand.

Evidently, this decision cannot be separated from the repeated Israeli demands to cease the dialogue with the PLO. The decision came as a gift to Shamir, and as a U.S. green light for his government to pursue its practices against residents in the occupied Arab territories, and continue challenging the peace efforts in the Middle East.

Just as this decision came to nourish the extremist tendencies in the current Israeli Government, so too it will nourish the extremist tendencies on the Arab side, making the moderate party subservient to it, and consequently, placing the entire region over a barrel of dynamite.

The PLO eagerly responded to all U.S. demands to begin this dialogue. This was in the hope that Washington would play an evenhanded and balanced role regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, in a bid to reach a constructive dialogue resulting in the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Washington's pretext came in the Tel Aviv operation, the responsibility for which was denied by the PLO. This operation was used by the U.S. Administration as a flimsy and absurd excuse to yield to Israeli pressures to halt the dialogue.

With this decision the United States has not only veered completely toward the side of the extremists in Israel, placing itself in direct collision with the realistic principles of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, but has gone beyond this to beat the drums of war and place the region in an impossible situation that will only lead to destruction.

As we stated, this U.S. decision will not be overlooked. It will not be like other U.S. decisions which passed without a response. This decision, which is hostile to the Palestinian people and the entire Arab nation, requires a decisive and immediate response by the Arab states and the Arab masses. They demand a political and economic boycott of the United States, and a halt to all dealings until the United States returns to its senses and becomes conscious of its interests.

All the Arabs are facing a test. The question of whether or not the Baghdad summit resolutions had merit is now being put to the test.

Seen As PLO Failure

JN2106161090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 21 Jun 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: It is well known that the 'Arafat organization viewed the initiation of its dialogue with Washington more than a year ago as a serious accomplishment, a formidable gain, and a historic turning point. As for objective political quarters, they viewed the initiation of this dialogue as a test for the 'Arafat organization. They thought that this test would show sooner or later whether this organization had actually changed its colors, spots, nature, and makeup.

Yesterday, U.S. President George Bush officially announced his administration's decision to suspend its dialogue with the 'Arafat organization. This decision came after it had become clear to the entire world that the experience of this dialogue over the past 30 months [as heard] not only failed to serve the cause of the desired peace, but also failed to serve the cause of combating international terrorism. At any rate, the crucial issue has never been whether the U.S. Administration would continue, halt, or suspend its dialogue with the 'Arafat organization. Neither has the crucial issue had anything to do with the continuation of the dialogue nor the attainment of peace between the U.S. Administration and the 'Arafat organization. The crucial issue has always been and continues to be the attainment of an honorable and realistic solution to the Palestine question and the establishment of a comprehensive peace in our region.

It is hoped that the U.S. Administration and all well-meaning and peace-loving forces will eventually reach the conclusion that the 'Arafat organization's attempt to involve itself in the peace process has continued to constitute an almost insurmountable difficulty facing international efforts to reach a settlement based on elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The reference here is to the election idea proposed within the framework of the peace plan announced by the Israeli Government in May last year.

The Israeli position on the PLO is a frank, principled position based on the premise that this organization can never, objectively speaking, qualify as a partner in any peace parley with Israel. It goes without saying that intellectual integrity and objectivity dictate that the objective reasons behind this principled Israeli position be understood. This Israeli position has been formulated in light of this organization's charter, its nature, its terrorist, bloody record—not to mention the lack of credibility characterizing faction leaders, well known to the entire world. Moreover, the entire world is also well aware of the mental and physical terrorism being exercised by these organizations against the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in particular and all Palestinians in general.

Certainly, it is high time for all concerned Palestinians to realize that the objective of attaining peace, realizing an honorable and satisfactory solution to their problem, or even taking a modest step toward the desired solution is secondary, marginal, and tactical to the 'Arafat organization and its leaders. The paramount objective of the 'Arafat organization, the objective that assumes precedence over all other objectives, is to perpetuate the PLO as an institution, to show that the PLO exists, and to create justifications for this existence.

This fact is further substantiated by 'Arafat's failure to condemn the operation recently carried out by the terrorist Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] organization and his failure to take any punitive measures against the terrorist Abu-al-'Abbas. Hence, the serious question posed to all well-intentioned and peace-loving forces and which must be carefully pondered and contemplated by all Palestinians is the following: What should be the important objective? What should be the paramount objective? Is it the immortalization of the 'Arafat organization and its leaders and the guarantee of this organization's survival? Or should the paramount and most sublime objective be the attainment of an honorable and realistic solution to the Palestine question and the establishment of the comprehensive peace desired and sought by peoples?

Commentary Says Onus on Shamir

TA2106150190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jun 90 p A3

[Commentary by 'Oded Granot: "The Invitation To Call Has Also Been Sent to 'Arafat"]

[Text] Against its will, the U.S. Administration yesterday did what it was pressured to do: suspend the dialogue with the PLO.

The move became inevitable from the moment it became clear to Washington, after three nerve-wracking weeks, that 'Arafat does not want to do, and perhaps is incapable of doing, the minimum required to continue the dialogue: Denounce the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] terrorist act [of 30 May].

The continuation of the dialogue under such circumstances would have cast a heavy shadow on the U.S. Administration's credibility and its determination to fight terror. It would have made it susceptible to sharp criticism from Congress, especially from Israel's friends there.

We must not deduce from this that the U.S. Administration has thereby adopted the Israeli Government's position, which claims that the PLO is an obstacle to peace. Washington knows, however, that the dialogue with the PLO has so far not achieved any real results, but in total contrast to the Israeli stand, it is still convinced that the peace process will not be advanced without the PLO.

That is why President Bush was careful not to slam the door on the resumption of contacts with the PLO in the future. From that point of view, at least, there is no great difference between the U.S. Administration's disappointment with 'Arafat's impotence to stop terror and its dissatisfaction with Israeli Government passivity over advancing the peace process.

These two addresses are now the targets of Baker's frustrations-hopes: "When you are ready, call us." The administration only forgot to leave the telephone number with 'Arafat.

For the immediate future, Israel appears to have achieved its goal. The suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue damages 'Arafat's prestige and position. It is, however, also a slap in the face for Mubarak, who pleaded with President Bush not to take such a step.

It is possible that the worst thing the Israeli Government could do now is to boast about the victory of the suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, without realizing that the White House has actually thrown the ball into Yitzhaq Shamir's court. In other words: Now that the United States has acted, it is the Israeli Government's turn to prove—if it can—that progress can be made towards peace without the PLO.

What is therefore needed now is a resumption of the political initiative by Israel and a meeting between the prime minister and President Bush to discuss ways to make progress in the peace process. It is needed not only to relieve tension in Israeli-U.S. relations, but also to prevent the possible criticism of Israel that by its pressures to cease the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, it merely pushed the PLO into resuming terror.

Said 'Gross Challenge' to Arabs

TA2106140290 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Jun 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Our Thanks to Bush; He Has Unshackled Us"]

[Text] We offer our gratitude to the Americans without a fuss, with steady nerves, and without delay. We are grateful to them for suspending the dialogue with the PLO, because the Palestinians were shackled by it. Washington is treating us the way a teacher treats his pupils. Bush wanted to punish us. Up to the time the dialogue was launched, we always asserted that the United States was biased and could not play a role in the peace process. It is very clear now that the U.S. decision to launch the dialogue was a tactical step meant to contain the Palestinian role. Why, then, should we be sad or angry about President Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue?

We do not underestimate or deny the importance of the U.S. position in the international arena. But no matter how much we need the Americans, this decision is an affront to our national dignity and pride.

It is better that we do not engage in a "rhetorical" fight with Washington, despite the disdain shown not only toward our Palestinian people but also toward our entire nation. With this act, Washington has succumbed to Israeli pressures. Thus it has diminished its ability to play a major or dominant role in the peace process.

If the United States has already lost its credibility in the Arab homeland, this decision will deprive it of its remaining friends. It has disqualified itself from influencing events in the Arab world in general, while its influence in the Middle East is on the verge of collapse.

We do not want to repeat the talk about the uselessness of the dialogue, because this is academic now. But we are nonetheless grateful to the United States despite the anguish during the dialogue, which lasted more than one and a half years and which achieved no progress toward mutual understanding or even agreement on the most elementary things, namely recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

Now it is the Arabs' turn to react to this decision. A decision like Bush's should lead our nation to realize the need to consolidate its solidarity and arrange the Arab house on clear foundations and self-reliance in order to confront this gross challenge to our will.

Finally, we thank Washington because this decision might awaken the Arab giant to revise his positions and create a pressure force that will be felt not only against the United States but also throughout the whole world. 21 jun 1450z clv

Ball in Shamir's 'Court'

TA2206095690 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "What Do We Have To Offer?"]

[Text] George Bush, in his bland declaration on the suspension of talks with the PLO, knows how to present the United States as a superpower which adamantly insists on its principles, but, at the same time, he gained several more points in the duel he is conducting with Yitzhaq Shamir. The U.S. President returned the ball to the Israeli court. Bush made clear that he opposes terror and supports a dialogue, and that he expects a significant Israeli step that will strengthen that objective.

The Palestinians are at a crisis. The intifadah was aimed at preparing the ground for international recognition of the PLO, and when the United States pulls the rug from beneath this recognition the intifadah remains without any political achievement. This is the opportunity for the Shamir government to carry out what it declares day and night: holding a dialogue with Palestinians who do not belong to the PLO.

In that context, one must ask if there are at any such Palestinians, and even more importantly: If there are Palestinians who do not support the PLO and are prepared to conduct a dialogue with Israel, what does Shamir have to offer them?

Shamir Comments on Middle East Issues

Interviewed by MAYU

JN2106150290 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 18 Jun 90 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Khamis Abu-al-'Afiyah, in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Afiyah] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was recently severely critical of Israel and told your government: 'When you are ready for peace, call us,' thus putting the onus on you, and suggesting that you are not serious about the peace process. What do you propose to do in the way of proving your good faith, your serious intentions about peace, and that you have a plan to break the logjam of the peace process.

[Shamir] To begin with, I would like to point out that we have since received explanations from Secretary Baker indicating that his remark was directed as much at Israel as at all other parties concerned. Secondly, the day the Knesset voted my new government into office, I declared its committment to the peace plan that we approved on 14 May 1989. I also said that we are bound by every letter of the plan. Obviously, then, we have a peace plan—a good and realistic one which I will work on with Egypt, which has an important role to play in the peace process. I shall also seek the cooperation of the United States.

[Al-'Afiyah] A commonly held view by observers is that if there is any party that can bring peace to the region the way Menachem Begin did in 1977, it is the Likud-led Israeli right wing. Do you go along with this assessment?

[Shamir] This has been shown by experience to be the case. But let us wait and see whether things will turn out that way. Yes, it is true that it was the Israeli right wing that brought about peace with Egypt. We in Israel are very much interested in peace.

[Al-'Afiyah] Israeli Labor Party chief Shim'on Peres has dismissed your talk about peace as just lip service. If your erstwhile coalition partner impugns your peace intentions, how do you expect the Arabs to take your peace protestations seriously?

[Shamir] That was one of the reasons that brought about the downfall of the national coalition government. That government lacked homogeneity and cooperation among its partners. Now we have a new government speaking with one voice and standing by one plan. The Arab states must, therefore, take seriously what my colleagues and I say about our intention to promote a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. I repeat that we will pursue the peace plan which was endorsed on 14 May 1989, and which was based on the Camp David accords.

[Al-'Afiyah] On more than one occasion you have said that you abide by the peace process and Camp David accords. However, there are elements in your government which oppose this process; they even term it "a catastrophe against the state." Do you not fear that when the peace talks begin, your partners in the government will foil them?

[Shamir] True, there are different opinions even inside the government. However, this is the result of the way elections are held in Israel, which always end up in a government alliance. In every government alliance, there are representatives of various parties and blocs. However, what determines things is the "peace plan" represented in the "main headlines" of the government that has already been approved.

[Al-'Afiyah] In a recent speech, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has stated: The Arab states will endeavor to achieve a settlement with Israel provided the latter returns to the Arab states their territories. Does Your Excellency accept such a proposal, and would you welcome Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Israel?

[Shamir] If the Syrian president wishes to come to Israel to hold talks with us without any preconditions, he will be welcome. Here, I wish to remind you that President al-Sadat also came to Israel in a surprise move, and his speech in the Knesset was "harsh" for us—I mean, for Israel. Still, we held talks and achieved a peace accord. If Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad wishes to follow al-Sadat's example, then I say to him: Welcome.

[Al-'Afiyah] But, please allow me to point out that the peace process which President al-Sadat started has succeeded: Egypt regained its territory and the land returned to its rightful owners. If the Syrian president starts a peace process, will he achieve the same result?

[Shamir] I am talking about negotiations without any preconditions. I do not want to, and I cannot, say anything about the results. However, if the "Arab countries" wish to arrive at a settlement to the conflict, then they, and we, must begin talks, and we will then see the result. But, without talks, we cannot achieve anything.

[Al-'Afiyah] A few months ago you talked about the major wave of immigration (the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel). [parentheses as published] You have said—and I quote—that "this emigration requires a Greater Israel." Now, following the uproar resulting from your statement, are you sorry for making it, and what do you mean by "Greater Israel?"

[Shamir] More than once, I have explained that Israel cannot be large in area because it is a small state and we cannot change the geography of this country (Israel). However, I want Israel to be strong in its society, cultural level, and economy.

[Al-'Afiyah] Can you see yourself at "some point" sitting to the negotiations table with the PLO leader? [quotation marks as published]

[Shamir] I do not believe that talks with 'Arafat will lead to peace, because I believe that 'Arafat does not want peace with Israel.

[Al-'Afiyah] Then what should 'Arafat do to prove his good intentions toward Israel?

[Shamir] Dissolve the PLO. Israel's current policy is to hold talks with every neighboring Arab state and with representatives elected by the Arab citizens in "Judaea and Samaria" and Gaza Strip, and not with the "PLO." This is our policy.

[Al-'Afiyah] But every person who would vote in the West Bank would be an unofficial representative of the PLO. Don't you believe that it would be better to simplify the matter and talk directly to the senior officials in the PLO who have the authority to decide on matters?

[Shamir] I don't know what goes in the mind of every Arab. However, the PLO is also doing what it is thinking. Up until now it has been engaging in terrorism. It also says that it will not change the "Palestinian document" under which it pledges to eliminate the State of Israel! I do not see any possibility of holding talks with the PLO. As for talks with the Arab states, my answer is: Yes. Yes to talks with the elected representatives of the Palestinians. I repeat and say "no" to the PLO and "no" to the terrorist organizations.

[Al-'Afiyah] Permit me to interrupt you. But in the speech he delivered to the Palestine National Council in 1988, didn't the chairman of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 171, 242, and 338, which meant the invalidation of the "Palestinian document" and the recognition of the State of Israel?

[Shamir] There is a wide gap between what 'Arafat says and does. Proof is the abortive terrorist attempt by the group belonging to 'Arafat's friend, Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] on Shabouth.

[Al-'Afiyah] Some experts say that if 'Arafat fails to accomplish anything for his people, the hawks within the PLO and outside it, such as the Islamic "Hamas" movement, will have the upper hand. Aren't you afraid that this would lead to a worsening of the situation and the possibility of an outbreak of war in the Middle East?

[Shamir] Extremist elements in the Arab world will bring catastrophes for the Arab nation. We are not afraid of these extremist elements. I believe that by their extremism these people are a danger to the Arabs. I believe both the PLO and Hamas movement are extremist elements which will finish the peace prospects

[Al-'Afiyah] President Mubarak has proved himself to be a staid, rational, and moderate leader. This was obvious during the Baghdad summit conference, where he tried to lessen the tone and language of the "resolutions". Don't you think that this factor is sufficient to prompt you to make concessions to the Arabs in all which concerns the peace process?

[Shamir] According to our peace plan, I believe that cooperation between us and Egypt must be strong so that we can work together to bring peace to the region. I wish we had stronger cooperation between Israel and Egypt to convince the Palestinians and other elements of the need to create and prepare a different climate in the region, a positive climate that will move peace efforts forward. I did not expect President Mubarak to join "the Arabs" in their campaign against Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, because emigration to Israel is like oxygen needed for breathing. Any Israeli, even if he were the staunchest advocate of moderation vis-a-vis Arabs, would never make concessions on the issue of emigration, because he who opposes emigration actually opposes the entity of the state as a whole. The story about settling Jewish immigrants in "Judaea and Samaria" is unfounded and baseless. Everybody who lives in this country knows that immigrants are not being sent to settlements. However, peace between Egypt and Israel must be the cornerstone for a comprehensive peace in the region. We are ready to do our best to help President Mubarak's efforts to bring peace to the region.

(Note from MAYU: President Mubarak does not oppose emigration. He opposes the settling of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories, which is still a bone of contention.)

[Al-'Afiyah] A review of Arab papers indicates that the Arabs are fighting against the settlement of immigrants in the "territories." Do you not believe that it would be better if you declare to the world that Israel has no intention of settling immigrants in the "territories?"

[Shamir] It is true that such reports have been carried by the Arab papers, but I have said tens of times that the policy of Israel is not to direct the immigrants to live in "Judaea and Samaria" or in other areas. The truth is that they do not go there. But the Arabs use this as a pretext in their war against immigration. Thus, they prove that they do not seek to liberate the "territories" only, but that the existence of Israel in this region disturbs them. The Jewish people feel that. Therefore, we should not be asked to believe the intentions of those who fight immigration; anyone who fights immigration fights the entity of Israel. Therefore, the Arabs are mistaken when they fight immigration.

[Al-'Afiyah] Hypothetical question: If several thousand Jewish immigrants choose to go to the settlements, will the Israeli Government prevent them from doing so?

[Shamir] Israel is a democratic state. We tell nobody to go to this or to that place. Everyone does what he wishes. We do not promulgate laws preventing anyone from going anywhere in Israel.

Likewise, it is impossible to ask America to prevent the Jewish immigrants from going to San Francisco or to any other place.

[Al-'Afiyah] How do you evaluate last year in regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict? And what do you anticipate for the coming year? Will it be a year of peace and reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel?

[Shamir] First, I would like to see a year of peace and reconciliation between us and the Arab states. Undoubtedly, however, the intifadah—this series of daily demonstrations and confrontations between the Arabs and Jews—must be stopped. I believe that the aid given to the intifadah by the Arabs obstructs the peace process. This is clear for the Arabs in Israel and the Arab states. The intifadah as it is will be of no use to the Arab nation. The only way to achieve progress in the peace process is through negotiations. We propose negotiations. Let us abandon the intifadah, which causes pain to citizens and makes victims fall. This is what we do not want to see happening. We regret this situation which hurts us. Let them stop that and embark on negotiations. We propose negotiations based on Camp David. President Mubarak stated to a Kuwaiti paper two years ago that he regretted the suspension of negotiations on the implementation of the Camp David accords. He said something like this: "Had the negotiations not stopped, the Palestinians would have gained a great deal in time." Thus, time has passed in vain.

Therefore, I say: what a loss that time passed in vain. However, let us learn from the past, revive negotiations, and sit at the "table" to negotiate within the framework of Camp David accords and within the framework of the "peace plan" approved on 14 May 1989. Let us embark on negotiations.

[Al-'Afiyah] What do you think of President Mubarak?

[Shamir] President Mubarak is a great Arab leader. He is the leader of a great and very important Arab state. He has achieved numerous and great accomplishments. We would like to work with him for peace.

Affirms Desire for Peace

TA2206043990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last night all those who have tried to convince Israel that the PLO has changed its thoughts are now seeing for themselves that it was all just a public relations ploy by the organization. Addressing leaders of the United Israel Appeal in Caesarea, Shamir reaffirmed Israel's position that the PLO is not a partner in peace talks. Shamir said he would never do anything that would put Israel's security at risk:

[Begin Shamir recording] Israel doesn't have to prove to anyone our seriousness about peace. The actions we have taken in the past and the sacrifices that we have made for peace speak for themselves, but we shall never gamble with our security and will not take risks that in the long run could endanger our security. Therefore, we shall not talk to the PLO. They are not a partner for peace. Their objective is the elimination of our country. Many now see that our attitude in this regard has been correct. Those who try to persuade that in 1988 the PLO changed its colors were completely wrong. [end recording]

The prime minister said it was nothing more than a public relations exercise, pointing at the attempt to attack Israel's beaches during the Shabuoth holiday.

On President Bush's decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO, the prime minister had this to say:

[Begin Shamir recording] We welcome the U.S. Government's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. It is a step in the right direction. Hopefully, it will enable us and our partners to the peace process to move the peace negotiations forward. Let us hope also that people will no longer take seriously what the PLO says and look at what the PLO does. [end recording]

Discusses U.S. Ties

TA2206061590 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 22 Jun 90 pp 1, 2, 20

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Shilon; place and date not given]

[Text] [Shilon] Mr. Prime Minister, have you already telephoned the White House?

[Shamir] No, I have not telephoned the White House. I am not a great believer in political discussions via the telephone.

[Shilon] They are waiting for your call.

[Shamir] They are waiting for my responses, not necessarily my telephone call. They know very well that I do not believe that deep and meaningful discussions to solve complex and important problems can be done through telephone calls or letters. Nevertheless, I am preparing an answer to President Bush's letter to me, and in it I will express my stand on what has happened and what will take place.

[Shilon] We will touch on that soon, but was not the White House telephone number that Baker publicly called on you to use a sign of unprecedented public contempt that the U.S. Administration has decided to adopt toward you and your new government?

[Shamir] I do not see any need to explain Baker's remarks. You will have to ask him for that. I am also not prepared to discuss the manner in which the remarks were made.

[Shilon] Were you offended?

[Shamir] It is not a personal offense. There are differences of opinion between us and the administration and I must defend the positions of the Israeli Government, not my honor or position.

[Shilon] Only differences of opinion? Everybody is talking about the fire that has spread to U.S.-Israeli relations, about the unprecedented ebb and crisis in relations.

[Shamir] That is a great exaggeration. There is no deep erosion in Israeli-U.S. relations. The basis of the ties has not been damaged. It is a deep and firm foundation of friendship, cooperation, and identity of interests and moral principles. The differences of opinion are only natural since there is such a wide- ranging framework of relations. There are periods of flourishing and there are periods of difficulties. We are now going through a period of difficulties with the United States.

[Shilon] Is not the word "difficulties" an understatement to describe the mistrust of Bush and Baker toward you personally?

[Shamir] I do not believe that is the situation. I do not have to defend myself as though I were being charged with something; anyway, it is my duty to defend the positions and future of Israel.

[Shilon] Those positions have been called by President Bush "a problem for the United States."

[Shamir] We also have problems. There are problems of immigrant absorption, for example, and threats by the USSR president to stop aliyah if we allegedly continue to settle immigrants in Judaea and Samaria. We have already declared that we have no intention of doing that and that we are not doing it now.

[Shilon] Permit me, nevertheless, to continue asking about relations with the United States, as they are treating you and your government with very offensive public diplomacy.

[Shamir] I regret they are doing that. It is happening, but it is a passing situation.

[Shilon] The U.S. Administration has stopping believing in the honesty of your intentions and your aspirations for peace.

[Shamir] It is not a question of trust or of a psychological situation. It is all a matter of interests and pressures from various directions. I believe we will overcome the problems, and our relations with the United States will return to being normal and good.

[Shilon] What lesson should one draw from the fact that the Bush administration has refused to invite you to Washington?

[Shamir] None. There is no procedure that makes it imperative for a reelected prime minister to be invited to Washington immediately after reelection. The Americans already know me.

[Shilon] Were you encouraged by Bush's announcement two days ago on the suspension of the talks with the PLO?

[Shamir] Certainly. The President's announcement marks a certain turning point in U.S. policy. It brings us back to the era when the United States shared our views on the PLO. This is a terrorist organization with which one does not talk.

[Shilon] The Americans mentioned only a temporary shift.

[Shamir] True. This indeed raises my fear that the United States might go back on the new line it adopted this week. I hope reality and good sense will have the upper hand and conquer all other considerations. The United States cannot share the PLO's lies. It must maintain its credibility.

[Shilon] Baker's aide John Kelly has already apprised Congress of the dangers and negative outcome of the suspension of the U.S.- PLO dialogue. He predicted increased violence and terrorism in the Middle East.

[Shamir] This is in line with the assessments that led to the opening of the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, to which John Kelly was full partner. It may very well be that terrorism will now increase. This is to be expected. Yet I hope that more and more Arabs would realize that they will attain nothing through violent means.

[Shilon] The suspension of the talks with the PLO is seen in the United States as lip service the administration paid Congress and that after a brief hiatus, what we have seen before will happen again.

[Shamir] That may be, but I would like to be optimistic.

[Shilon] President Bush's announcement can, on the other hand, lead to greater U.S. Administration pressure on Israel. It can now say: That is it, we have expelled the PLO which, according to Israel's arguments, was the obstacle to the promotion of peace. Now there are no more excuses and it is Israel's turn to prove how sincere it is in its adherence to the process. The ball has been thrown entirely into the Israeli court.

[Shamir] We have never used pretexts. From the outset of the process, we believed—as we continue to do—that the PLO, by its nature, cannot be partner to the peace process. Now that the administration has ceased to encourage the PLO, we will be able to promote the process.

[Shilon] Despite the announcement on the suspension of the talks with the PLO, James Baker is still awaiting your response regarding the Cairo meeting. Why is it so hard for you to tell him "yes" or "no?"

[Shamir] It is not hard, but this is not an isolated issue. It is part of the overall problem of Israel's relations with the Arab world. We do not have to make peace with the United States, but with the Arabs.

[Shilon] But by pushing for an opening move in Cairo, Baker only wants to help us attain exactly the peace you have been talking about. What is wrong with that?

[Shamir] The United States indeed wants to make peace between us and the Arabs. The problem is what the terms for that peace would be. That is where we differ. That has been the situation throughout our relations with the United States. There was not one U.S. President with whom we agreed fully.

[Shilon] Does this imply that you are saying "no" to Baker now?

[Shamir] I say "yes" to the common goal: the attainment of peace with the Arab countries. I suggested that the United States assist us in that, but there must be agreement on the way to do it. There is no room for U.S. dictates.

[Shilon] You did not answer my question. I want to insist, like the U.S. secretary of state, on a clear and unambiguous answer: "yes" or "no" to the Cairo meeting?

[Shamir] You can insist to your heart's content, but it will not help you. We are interested in meetings with the representatives of the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to find a satisfactory solution. But first it is necessary to discuss the terms for such meetings, sometimes also their venue, even though this is less important.

[Shilon] And you believe that this response of yours would satisfy Baker?

[Shamir] I do not have to appease anyone.

[Shilon] What more is there to discuss on the terms for the Cairo meeting? There have been numerous discussions on the matter, and, after all, the positions are well known to all.

[Shamir] It is a fact that the Cairo meeting caused the political crisis in Israel. This means that something has happened. It must be examined, and a new discussion with the United States should start.

[Shilon] What are the new ideas you will raise in your response to George Bush?

[Shamir] It would not be right for me to detail here the content of my letter to the U.S. President. He should be the first to read it. But it will take into consideration the fact that the United States is currently receptive to our opinion that the PLO is a terrorist organization.

[Shilon] Will any new ideas be mentioned in the message?

[Shamir] I do not know whether new ideas will be included, but I hope my explanations will satisfy him.

[Shilon] Explanations of your traditional views?

[Shamir] I have no traditional views. I have principles.

[Shilon] Can one gather from this that this will not be a new political initiative?

[Shamir] I will not offer a new political initiative.

[Shilon] Does your call to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to come to Jerusalem indicate readiness to cede territories on the Golan Heights?

[Shamir] It is wrong to think that every peace negotiation entails withdrawals or far-reaching Israeli concessions. Negotiations imply discussions and an examination of ways to resolve a conflict.

[Shilon] From al-Asad's point of view, your answer is a "nonstarter" [previous word in English] for any form of negotiations.

[Shamir] It is pointless to outline our positions before the start of negotiations.

[Shilon] In the past you used to say that the territories on the Golan Heights are not as sacred as the areas of Judaea and Samaria. Do you still uphold that view?

[Shamir] There is no question of holiness, but there is definitely a difference between the Golan Heights and Judaea and Samaria. When the time comes, we will discuss it.

[Shilon] Will you continue the settlement policy?

[Shamir] The establishment of new settlements is not the main item on our agenda. The main issue now is aliyah and immigrant absorption.

[Shilon] Does that mean a settlement freeze?

[Shamir] Aliyah and absorption reduce the importance of all the other issues on the agenda, including settlements.

[Shilon] The new government was defined by you when it was presented in the Knesset as "the best possible," and not "the best that can be desired." Why must we again live with the slogan: "This is the best we can do?"

[Shamir] That is not my slogan. My motto is: Although this is what we have now, we must achieve what is desirable.

[Shilon] Are you pleased with your government?

[Shamir] We are still at the beginning. We will be able to judge it and its composition only by the test of time and based on its actions. The government's chances of succeeding on the state's vital problems are high.

[Shilon] You have been described as somebody who was compelled to do what he did and who had this government forced on him and it is said that you are now imprisoned by its constraints. Is this the situation?

[Shamir] That is a ridiculous description. I have never been imprisoned by anybody, except for the period when I was in a British jail, but even then I considered myself a free man and managed to escape. Nobody twisted my arm to set up a government I did not want. I nevertheless said that I would have been happy had I set up a unity government. It was not possible under the prevailing conditions.

[Shilon] Cartoonist Ze'ev painted you this week in HA'ARETZ sitting on the government benches, with the ministers backs to the Americans and only you facing the United States, but with your hands trapped under the butts of the constraints ministers sitting on your right and left. Is that a correct description of your situation in the government?

[Shamir] Cartoonists always exaggerate. They are permitted to do so.

[Shilon] Is it only an exaggeration and not a distortion?

[Shamir] Both. My hands are free and, more important, my conscience is free. I usually act according to my conscience. The government ministers are not turning their backs to the United States. We all view it as a friend and ally and regret the differences with it.

[Shilon] The first days of the coalition have shown rifts between the Likud and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

[Shamir] I do not know about such rifts.

[Shilon] Have you not heard about the power struggle over the Israel Lands Administration?

[Shamir] There are problems of this kind, but I think we have resolved most of them. If some issues are still outstanding, I am sure we will find a solution.

[Shilon] Within the framework of "things to be resolved," is SHAS demanding an end to the police investigation against Minister Der'i?

[Shamir] God forbid.

[Shilon] They have not even requested it?

[Shamir] They are wise people and know that the prime minister has no control and influence over a police investigation.

[Shilon] Does that mean that you are encouraging the police to continue the investigation?

[Shamir] Since I do not get involved in preventing a police probe, I likewise do not take a stand on the need to investigate. I hope the truth will come out.

[Shilon] During the political crisis you expressed the hope that you would not be forced to rely on the support of [Tehiya Knesset member] Elyaqim Ha'etzni and [Moledet's] Rehav'am Ze'evi. Are you disappointed that your hopes have been dashed?

[Shamir] In every coalition there is a certain measure of dependence on its components. I would like the coalition to be broader so as to permit less reliance on one or another component. I hope we will reach that.

[Shilon] How would you characterize your current relations with Ari'el Sharon?

[Shamir] Ari'el Sharon and I have been enjoying full cooperation. Our immediate objectives are thoroughly identical: to succeed in absorbing aliyah.

[Shilon] But have you not tired of his style, as you have said in the past?

[Shamir] I do not notice such a style anymore.

[Shilon] Why did you not appoint Sharon defense minister?

[Shamir] I thought that the job I gave Sharon in the Cabinet best suits his qualifications and talents at this point.

[Shilon] Do you have no reservations, like your colleague Moshe Nisim has, over the agreement you signed with Yitzhaq Moda'i?

[Shamir] I do not contemplate the past. What's done is done. During the negotiations for the establishment of the coalition, we were put, and found ourselves, in some tight situations. We were forced to take steps we did not like taking. We did that after weighing the alternatives and considering our priorities. The entire people of Israel witnessed the outcome.

[Shilon] The people of Israel indeed saw and felt humiliated by the politicians, who have sunk Israel to an unprecedentedly low moral stand.

[Shamir] These are cliches. I can recall times in the past when people also said that. You cannot measure the low.

[Shilon] In his new role as finance minister, Yitzhaq Moda'i has already promised to affect our pockets and standard of living. Can you look Israeli citizens straight in the eye and demand that they lower their standard of living after the three months during which "the public coffers were robbed right, left, and center?"

[Shamir] There is no connection between the Israeli citizens' standard of living and the funds given to one person or another. The standard of living is the outcome of broad and complex processes. But I do not have to explain now what the finance minister said.

[Shilon] Why did you call on Avraham Sharir to come back home?

[Shamir] I wish to strengthen my movement.

[Shilon] Can Sharir be considered a strength, following the slap he dealt your movement?

[Shamir] I called him back home. At a later point we will review the events that led to him to the desperate moves he took. I am glad he is back.

[Shilon] This means it pays to demonstrate aggression and political pushiness?

[Shamir] I do not think so. On the day the Cabinet was presented to the Knesset, I proved that I stand firmly on my principles. Politics is a tug-of-war between principles and reality, and I never violated principles.

[Shilon] Will you offer Sharir an operational post?

[Shamir] I have no intention of discussing my plans, but Sharir cannot be ruled out forever.

[Shilon] As the person at the top of the political pyramid, why, throughout the entire recent crisis, did you not slam your fist and say: That is enough, no more contempt and extortion. Let us go to the people and prevent this "dirty trick."

[Shamir] I can slam my fist and have been known to do that at times, but only when it is necessary or when it can yield the positive change I desire. During the times you referred to, I did make certain remarks I am not used to making, but did not reach the point where I felt obligated to say: Enough. If I had done so, I would have cut short processes that are important and vital for Israel and would have set other, highly dangerous processes, into motion.

[Shilon] Does Yitzhaq Rabin as Labor Party leader frighten you electorally?

[Shamir] Definitely not. The Likud will beat the Labor Party in the next elections, regardless of who stands at its head.

[Shilon] Is there a distance between the worldview of Yitzhaq Shamir, the private citizen, and the practical manifestation of that worldview as prime minister?

[Shamir] There is no distance, but sometimes I must resort to tactical moves. Someone may construe them as apparent contradictions or deviations from my individual worldview. There is nothing to that. I do not contradict myself, nor do I digress from my path.

[Shilon] During the latest crisis, did you ever think about quitting political life?

[Shamir] There is no man who does not entertain such thoughts. But in this difficult campaign, I knew I must be firm and steadfast so that we can emerge intact. I am glad this is what happened.

[Shilon] Had Shim'on Peres been the one to head the government, would that have meant the end of your political career?

[Shamir] It would not have obliged me to make a personal decision. I do not make my personal decisions while involved in a public campaign.

[Shilon] Will you lead the Likud in the next elections as well?

[Shamir] It depends on when they take place, how I feel, and how the Likud feels toward me.

[Shilon] Have you not had enough?

[Shamir] Absolutely not.

[Shilon] What are you made of?

[Shamir] Flesh and blood and principles.

[Shilon] What about the spirit and the soul?

[Shamir] To a desirable degree.

[Shilon] Thank you.

Peres To Fight for Labor Leadership Position

TA2206105990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jun 90 p 20

[Report by political correspondent Michal Yudelman]

[Text] Labour Party chairman Shim'on Peres said yesterday he will fight for his position as party leader and has no intention of stepping aside in favour of MK [Knesset Member] Yitzhaq Rabin. Shortly after returning from abroad, Peres convened his followers last night to thwart the offensive and to prepare for the approaching showdown.

Labour's Leadership Bureau is due to decide next Thursday when it is to take place.

Peres blasted Rabin for being "just as responsible, if not more so" for so-called mistakes and accused party circles of turning him into the sole scapegoat for the failure to form a Labour government.

If anyone should draw "personal conclusions," Peres said, then Rabin should. "MKs 'Uzi Bar'am and Mordekhay Gur (who joined the call for a change of leadership yesterday) were ready to be ministers in the government I tried to form," Peres charged. "They voted for all the moves I made. If those moves were wrong, they should resign and not try to turn me into the scapegoat.

"Rabin went with me all the way, step by step, supporting all the moves. Was he chained to me? Couldn't he have voted against them? Had I succeeded in forming a government, would those moves also have been called wrong? He acted to form a national unity government, thinking he could lead (Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Shamir to Cairo. Instead, Shamir led him to a deadend," Peres said.

Peres expressed his disappointment with former supporters who have switched to Rabin's camp and said that at least his friends should have informed him of their intention.

MK Avraham Katz-'Oz said that while Peres was abroad, conspiracies formed against him, spreading reports that the entire party had turned on him. MK Yosi Beilin said this was not the time for a showdown, as the party should concentrate on serving as a strong opposition. Peres was the most suitable candidate for party leader and prime minister, he said.

The Leadership Bureau yesterday decided that all the party's candidates for the Knesset and local authorities would be chosen in "primaries" by all the party's members, after the lists are updated by a census to begin on July 15.

Levi To Remain in Hospital 'Several Days Longer'

TA2106193390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] 'Afula Hospital physicians have decided that Foreign Minister David Levi is to remain under observation for several days longer. After Minister Levi suffered a mild heart attack about a week ago, he was expected to be released at the end of this week. Now, however, hospital Deputy Director Dr. Kantor has announced that it has been decided to keep him under observation until Sunday, when the team will decide on the final release date. The doctors wish to examine various effects of the attack.

GDR 'About To Sign' Diplomatic Ties Agreement

TA2206091590 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 90 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Israel and the GDR are about to sign an agreement to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry sources reported that talks between an Israeli and a GDR delegation will resume at the beginning of next month in Copenhagen with the intention of signing an agreement on the establishment of ties in this round of talks.

In discussions held in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem last week, it was determined that the GDR has fulfilled all the conditions Israel had presented for the establishment of diplomatic relations, including the resolution of 12 April in which the GDR assumed full responsibility for the Holocaust and expressed its willingness to compensate its victims.

Correction to Shamir Disagrees With Baker

TA2206042590

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Shamir Disagrees With Baker," published in the 21 June Near East & South Asia Daily Report, page 21.

Column one, first full paragraph, last sentence, should read ...will conduct negotiations without the approval of... (correcting "with" to read "without")

Reportage on U.S. Suspending PLO Dialogue

Dialogue 'Must' Be Resumed

JN2106183490 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Interview with Tahir al-Masri, House of Representatives member and head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, by Ghalib al-Hadidi at the news studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Al-Hadidi] You are welcome, Mr. Tahir. How do you view the repercussions of the U.S. decision on the peace process in the region?

[Al-Masri] This U.S. decision, which is not surprising and was even somewhat expected, will have many negative repercussions on the peaceful dialogue and the peace process in the region. This decision comes at a time when a new Israeli government was formed—the most extremist right-wing Israeli government—and at a time when the PLO and the Arab nation in general have been putting forth great efforts to boost the peace process. Therefore, I believe that if the U.S. Government is really serious about boosting peace efforts and making the region calmer, the dialogue with the PLO must be resumed. However, this time it must be given more significance and vigor than om the past period of the dialogue, which lasted about two years.

[Al-Hadidi] Mr. Tahir, do you believe the dialogue will be resumed, and how?

[Al-Masri] It must—I am answering this way on purpose—it must be resumed, because there is no choice but to deal with the PLO and the Palestinian people. This is if the United States is actually willing to reach a peaceful solution and to boost the peace process. I believe—maybe I am mistaken—but I believe that had the U.S. Government not made this decision, Congress would have preempted it by enacting a similar decision. I believe there were contradictory statements made by President Bush himself during the press conference when he declared that he believes that suspending the dialogue would enhance violence prospects in the region. Therefore, the United States is required to resume the dialogue soon.

[Al-Hadidi] Mr. Tahir, the U.S. President expressed fears that the decision to suspend the dialogue may revive acts of violence and dangers in the region. If the U.S. Administration is aware of these matters, why did it take this step?

[Al-Masri] This is a clear contradiction in the U.S. line. How do you stop dialogue and at the same time you say that this will lead to increasing acts of violence? I believe there is confusion, and that the United States should rescind its decision to suspend the dialogue. But, as I said—I want to stress this point—when the dialogue is resumed, it must be given significance, meaning, and depth. The PLO must be talked to as the sole, legitimate representative.

[Al-Hadidi] In spite of the fact that the dialogue was slow, do you believe that it achieved something for the peace process?

[AL-Masri] I believe the dialogue was important because it had a symbolic significance—that the United States Government, an important player in the peace process to reach a peaceful solution, was talking to the sole, legitimate representative. This is the sole significance so far of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Apart from that, the dialogue did not advance, and offered nothing in the past.

[Al-Hadidi] Many thanks.

Senate Speaker Urges Peace

JN2106211790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Amman, 21 Jun (PETRA)—Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi has said that the U.S.-PLO dialogue never was an end in itself, but a means sought by all believers in peace, justice, and freedom.

By international and Arab admission, he added, the PLO has shown itself to be a positive and responsible organization that has opted for peace and renounced terrorism. In approaching the Americans, the PLO has been driven by a feeling that as a superpower, the United States would assume a direct responsibility toward peace—a nation whose constitution enshrines principles of justice and equality among nations, including the Palestinian people.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, al-Lawzi added: All peace-lovers came to regard the dialogue and its continuation as a positive, key factor in promoting peace and drawing closer to a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. The suspension of the dialogue has shown the United States in the negative light of a nation of double standards, condoning Israel's practices in occupied Arab territory that run counter to United Nations Security Council resolutions and the 1949 Geneva Convensions on the safety of civilian populations under occupation.

It is hoped by all peace-seekers that the United States will reconsider, and that its concern for its relationship with Israel will be matched by an effort to address the needs of the Palestinian people for peace and justice. This is despite Israel's belligerency, and its violations of Palestinian human rights that have been acknowledged by the European Community and other world countries.

Al-Lawzi concluded his statement by emphasizing that a combination of the U.S. postures at the UN Security Council, its support for Israel, and its suspension of the dialogue will only stiffen the resolve of the Palestinian people to step up their intifadah and adhere to their inalienable rights to self-determination, freedom, and sovereignty over their national soil, no matter how long it takes.

Editorial Warns of Violence

JN2206104790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 90 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Suspending the Dialogue Is a Reckless Decision"]

[Text] After the United States suspended the dialogue with the PLO, thus succumbing to Zionist pressures that started with the beginning of this dialogue, the Middle East has now become fully ripe for a new cycle of violence and extremism, and perhaps for a new war as a result of a possible chain reaction from various sides.

It suffices to remind the United States of the huge arsenal of unconventional weapons filling the region as well as missiles that can lead to an exchange of disasters and mass destruction. This is to make the superpower realize what a reckless decision it made when it halted the dialogue and blocked any political alternatives that could prevent a rapid decline of the situation in the region.

For if the Zionist extremists view the U.S. President's decision as a gain for the logic of rejection and aggression, all the extremists on the other side will view this decision—which indeed deserved their applause—as a similar gain for their logic, which receded after the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue opened, with the significant contribution to the hoped-for peace process represented by the opening of that door, which had been tightly shut before.

Thus, the halt in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be viewed as more than a serious setback for the peace efforts in the region, especially since this decision, which has pleased all extremists, headed by the war government formed by Shamir recently, opened the door to the advancement of nonpolitical options in the region. This includes the revival of what Western circles used to term terrorism, which had lost much of its ground.

Consequently, while watching the Israeli applause for President Bush's decision and all the warm Zionist welcome for the suspension of a diplomatic process that began unsuccessfully and continued to be so for the past 18 months, we warn the United States of the gravity of the uncalculated repercussions which may result from its reckless decision. We urge the U.S. Administration to show more wisdom in its Middle East policy. Thus, perhaps, it may rescind such a decision and spare the region a huge explosion.

King Condoles Iranian President on Earthquake

JN2206114090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] His majesty the king today sent a cable to Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which his majesty expressed deep sorrow in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government at the tragic situation which followed the earthquake that hit Iran on Wednesday. His majesty expressed his deep sympathy and condolences for the Iranian Government for the victims of the tragedy.

Senior Official Discusses Arab Aid, Libya Visit

JN2206064890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jun 90 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman (AL-RA'Y)—Jordan has received $55 million from the fraternal State of Kuwait within the framework of Arab financial aid to Jordan. This raises the amount to date to $165 million.

A senior Jordanian official said Jordan is confident that the total aid this year, 1990, will exceed $500 million.

The official added: We have received $25 million in cash and $30 million worth of oil and petroleum products from Kuwait.

In a statement to journalists, the official said that this constitutes the first installment of Kuwaiti aid, which will total $75 million in cash and $60 million in oil or petroleum products this year, in accordance with the resolutions of the Baghdad extraordinary Arab summit held last month. He added: Kuwait will transfer the remaining part of this aid before the end of this year.

The official said: We hope that the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia will provide us with its share of financial aid soon.

The official explained that from the beginning of this year Jordan has received $60 million from the United Arab Emirates paid in two installments; the first installment was $20 million in April and the second was $40 million last week. In addition, it has received $25 million from Iraq which promised to pay $50 million; $20 million from Qatar paid in two installments; and $5 million from the Sultanate of Oman.

The official also explained: The 1990 budget includes expected Arab aid of $360 million which will help in balancing the budget.

The official also explained that no date has been set for His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Libya in response to the invitation that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi extended during the summit last month.

The official also said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's invitation to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during an interview with an Egyptian magazine last week is nothing but a tactic aimed at winning trust and time. He added: We do not take this invitation seriously.

Correction to Editorial Views 'Gift' to Shamir

JN2106122590

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Editorial Views 'Gift' to Shamir," published in the 21 June issue of the Near East & South Asia Daily Report, page 27:

Column one, sourceline, make read ...Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Jun 90 p 4. (correcting date)

Commentary Welcomes Dialogue Suspension

NC2206094690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Political Commentary: "Suspension of the Dialogue"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Some people think that U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is regrettable. We believe just the opposite. Suspension of the dialogue is good news, and we have waited a long time for it. We say this not to spite Yasir 'Arafat but out of pity and mercy for the flesh and blood of the Palestinian cause sacrificed on the alters of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. This is good news because it will stop the process of attrition for the Palestinian cause and because the dialogue was not originally held to serve this cause but to exhaust and liquidate it. The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is directly responsible for the current schism in the Palestinian political leadership. The dialogue was a manacle that shackled the hands of the official Palestinian establishment. Did not 'Arafat and his group attack all revolutionary, nationalist, and Muslim Palestinians for the sake of maintaining the dialogue? Did not 'Arafat recognize Israel and renounce armed struggle just to lure Washington to the dialogue?

The sessions of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue held in Tunis between Bal'awi and Pelletreau were a heavy legacy weighing down the Palestinian cause and all those loyal to it. Now that the dialogue has been suspended until further notice, we thank God for this boon which fell on us because of our enemies' intransigence. The suspension of the dialogue is an important lesson and example. We hope that 'Arafat will benefit from this lesson and remember the advice given to him not to start this dialogue. It is important for 'Arafat to realize that the dialogue was not beneficial but was a fatal political and historical mistake in the history of the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

It was Washington who decided to start the dialogue and it was Washington who decided to suspend it. The Arabs, Muslims, and Palestinians can ask: What was the role of the PLO in this dialogue? What did 'Arafat offer in this dialogue and how did the Palestinian issue benefit from the dialogue? Nothing, except perhaps the possibility that we can boast to the world that we talked with a superpower, with an arch devil, and with an archenemy. Was 'Arafat trying to prove his political and diplomatic dexterity through his dialogue with Washington?

While reading the decision to suspend the dialogue, George Bush did not deny 'Arafat's contribution. He said that 'Arafat was the only Palestinian to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism or armed struggle. However, what is the value of this talk? Did Bush want to delight the Arab emotions by praising 'Arafat, knowing that the Arabs are more emotional than they are pragmatist. If 'Arafat needs this Bush testimony when writing his memoirs, maybe he will enter history. However, what history is this? It is the history which Washington is trying to write on the basis that this era is the U.S. and Zionist era. On our part, we stress that this era is also the era of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. Whoever lives in the era of the Khomeyni renaissance should not be afraid of the U.S. arrogance.

Al-Huss Cables Condolences to Iranian President

NC2206112990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has cabled Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani conveying his condolences and sympathy for the victims of the earthquake which killed thousands of Iranians.

Soviet Jewish Families Reportedly Settle in South

NC2206082390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have transported about 15 Soviet Jewish families to occupied Southern Lebanon. According to Western diplomatic sources, three weeks ago these forces surveyed some areas close to the Palestinian-Lebanese border to settle these Jews, who have arrived from agricultural areas in the Soviet Union. The source added that officials from the Zionist Ministry of Immigrant Absorption accompanied the Jewish families to Lebanese territory. A piece of land was chosen on which the Jewish immigrants will settle.

The same sources noted that the Zionist forces have begun constructing a small runway in the eastern sector of the border zone capable of landing small passenger and transport aircraft. It will also receive Zionist helicopters which will ferry pasengers from and to the Zionist entity.

AL-NAHAR Cited on French Enovy's Proposals

NC2106123790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] AL-NAHAR quotes an informed source as saying that the proposals put forward by French envoy Francois Scheer are the same as those contained in the papal initiative, except that Scheer's proposals do not call for retrieving al-Ta'if accord from the Chamber of Deputies. The source summed up the main French ideas as follows:
1. Recognition of President al-Hirawi's legitimacy.
2. Support for the al-Ta'if accord as an approach to a solution.
3. Formation of a national unity government in which everybody, including General 'Awn and Dr. Ja'ja, will participate.
4. Unification of the Lebanese Army under General Emile Lahhud.

Commentary Rejects Amending of Al-Ta'if Charter

JN2106163490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Efforts have recently been renewed at more than one level to end the Lebanese crisis, particularly in East Beirut, where the citizens are suffering from the raging battle between 'Awn's forces and the militias of Ja'ja. The legitimate Lebanese government announced a firm and final stand when it explained to everybody that the al-Ta'if charter is the only solution, that there will be no deviation from it even by one inch, and that those who seek Lebanon's well-being should fully abide by it and rally under the legitimate government.

During the visit to Damascus by President al-Hirawi, President al-Asad reiterated Syria's support for the legitimate Lebanese Government and the Lebanese national reconciliation charter. The two presidents discussed the situation in Lebanon and the ongoing contacts to end the problem. Both agreed that the charter of national reconciliation is the only solution. They asserted the importance of implementing all its articles, and affirmed that any attempt to obstruct its implementation will inflict great harm on Lebanon and the Lebanese.

The relations of understanding and coordination between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi truly embody the distinguished, historic ties between the two sisterly countries—Syria and Lebanon. President al-Asad gave Lebanon much of his efforts and time; he even placed all of Syria's resources at the disposal of the Lebanese brothers out of the unity of blood and fate. He did not hesitate for one moment to dispatch Syrian forces to Lebanese territory in response to the brothers' appeal. He thus safeguarded Lebanon's unity and Arabism, and foiled the Zionist schemes to fragment Lebanon and turn it into an Israeli protectorate. Throughout the crisis, President al-Asad warned several parties against bringing the deceptive Israeli viper into the house. Subsequent events proved the soundness of his view. The Israeli interference not only prevented Lebanese reconciliation, but also divided the one faction and ignited sedition among its sons. What took place in East Beirut is the result of this interference, and the outcome of Israel's black schemes, which consider Lebanon as the weakest Arab link. Through it, the Israelis believe that they can move on to the neighborly states to destroy them from within after destroying Lebanon itself.

Because President al-Asad is as concerned about Lebanon as he is about Syria, President al-Hirawi briefed President al-Asad on what is happening, and acquainted him with ongoing efforts, contacts, and some parties' calls to amend the al-Ta'if agreement to please this or that person. However, the two presidents emerged with full agreement on adhering to the implementation of the national charter with all its articles out of the concern for the future of Lebanon and its citizens, because persons will perish and the homeland alone will remain.

The fact is that some parties' call to amend the agreement stems from narrow, egotistic interests and mirrors the strangling crisis in which they have found themselves. We know that going back on wrongdoing is a virtue, as they say, and the legitimate authority has affirmed its full readiness to cooperate with these parties if they return to the right path, abide by the national charter, and facilitate the mission of the legitimate government. The Lebanese were unanimous on the national charter through their representatives—deputies and political and religious key figures. The Arabs and the world were also unanimous on the charter. East Beirut citizens, who moved from their homes toward the peaceful areas under the legitimate government, have appealed to President al-Hirawi frequently to impose the power of the legitimate government by force, and have asserted their adherence to the national charter and fraternal coexistence. Those who oppose the charter have only achieved destruction and killing in Lebanon. One look at the map of Lebanon is sufficient to assess the situation. Security, stability, and economic activities prevail in the areas under the control of the legitimate government, while East Beirut is under the nightmare of fear and destruction.

The national charter organizes Lebanese life after 15 years of wars and destruction; lays down reconciliation, agreement, and understanding among all citizens; achieves equality; guarantees equal opportunities to all Lebanese; and forms the basis of a shining and promising future. It is the only solution that can uproot sedition and spread peace and tranquillity. Talk about amendments only means the going back to the beginning of the crisis and exploding it again. This is rejected by the Lebanese, Syria, and the Arabs.

Lebanese Problem Should Be Handled by Arabs

JN2206063990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen, the Lebanese question is an Arab concern and there can be no custodianship on Lebanon. Under this headline, the newspaper AL-BA'TH today begins its commentary by saying: The Lebanese question remains an Arab question just as Lebanon is an Arab country, and dealing with the Arab situation in Lebanon remains an Arab concern; Arabs alone have the right to deal with it in accordance with their ambitions and interests. Hence, the al-Ta'if agreement came to respond to and express Arab aspirations to save Lebanon from Western interference, which has never been in the Arabs' interest, as many living examples show us.

AL-BA'TH stresses that any retreat from the al-Ta'if agreement is tantamount to the conspiracy that the Zionist invaders tried to entrench through the 17 May agreement. It also constitutes a direct Arab admission of the custodianship of others over a purely Arab issue.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: He who is not interested in the unity of the Lebanese territory is interested in neither Lebanon's security nor the unity of its people.

Syria, which carries a large burden for the sake of Lebanon, will only support the Arab solution to the Lebanese question.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Condolences on Tehran Earthquake

LD2206080590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] A message of condolences has been sent to Tehran by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the occurrence of an earthquake in the northwest regions of that country, with the following text: In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Dear esteemed brother; I have regrettably heard the sad and unfortunate news of the occurance of an earthquake in the northwest regions of our brother and neighbor country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has caused losses of life and financial damage. On this occasion, I present the deepest sorrow of the state and people of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself to you, dear brother, and through you to the Muslim and fraternal people of Iran and those sisters and brothers who have lost their loved-ones and suffered in this tragedy.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan share the pain and sorrow of you, the Muslim brothers, and express their condolences. I wish from Almighty God tolerance to you, brother people of Iran and those families who have suffered as a result of this sad incident.

(signed) With respect, Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Kill 'About 30' Regime Soldiers

BK1806132390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have killed about 30 Kabul regime soldiers and militiamen in various operations near the security belt of Kabul and in Balkh Province. Mujahidin also captured two security posts and seized a large number of Kabul regime soldiers during their operations.

Kabul Garrison Battles 'Extremists'

LD1806170590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Armed Forces units from Kabul garrison carried out combat operations today in Kabul Province to prevent terrorist and warmongering actions by extremists.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that in these operations 32 persons of the extremists' groups were crushed and 55 SAKR-20 missiles, a Dashka, and a rocket launcher were destroyed.

In addition, air force strikes destroyed a convoy of arms and ammunition of the extremists with 12 vehicles in the region of Jalez, Vardak Province.

One Killed in Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD1906162590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Extremists committed yet another crime by firing six American-made [as heard] SAKR ground-to-ground rockets today. The military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that one rocket landed next to a mosque in Bagh-e Bala area, in Kabul city, where one of our compatriots was martyred.

In response to rockets fired by the extremist armed forces, units mounted a clearing up operation in the Kabul city environs, as a result of which 39 warmongers were killed and a large number of others wounded. One depot of enemy ammunition, one set of SAKR-20's, and one set of missiles were destroyed, and an assortment of ammunition was also destroyed. The report adds that one wireless set, 17 missiles, and 39 gun shells were captured by the security forces.

Rebel Source Cited on 'Intensified Operations'

BK2006152490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of intensified operations by the Afghan mujahidin against Kabul regime forces in various parts of the country this week.

A MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] report says the mujahidin killed 28 officers and soldiers when they attacked a supply caravan in Sarowbi on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway. Three armored personnel carriers and a number of other vehicles were also destroyed.

Another report says in a rocket attack on the Khvajah Rawash military airport of the Afghan capital, the mujahidin destroyed four aircraft and hit 23 tanks of the Kabul regime.

Nine Injured by Missiles in Kabul 20 Jun

LD2006163790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Nine citizens of Kabul city were injured today as a result of 11 surface-to-surface missiles fired by extremists.

The military section of BAKHTAR reported that the injured persons were quickly taken to hospitals and are in intensive care.

These missiles, mostly fired from the west, hit residential regions of Kabul city in the surroundings of Wards 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 of the city. Material losses were also inflicted on our compatriots.

Government Buys Weapons From Gulbuddin Group

LD2006154990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Organs of state security today purchased 20 U.S.-made [as heard] SAKR surface-to-surface rockets and 34 missiles from the Gulbuddin extremist group in Vardak, in line with decree 208 dated 10 September 1987. The price of the rockets has been paid to the other side in line with the decree.

Missiles Purchased From Gulbuddin Group

LD2006232290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] On the basis of decree No. 204 dated 10 October 1987 the organs of the Ministry of State Security have bought today 22 U.S.-made [as heard] SAKR-30 type missiles and four Mesel type missiles from groups attached to the extremist Gulbuddin group in the surroundings of Vardak Province. The purchase price of these missiles was paid to the other side in accordance with decree.

According to another report the personnel of the anticrime department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs have purchased today four communication sets from the opposition groups in the surroundings of Qarabagh District, Kabul Province, in accordance with decree No. 204 dated 10 October 1987. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY'S military section reported that the purchase price was paid to the opposite side in accordance with the decree.

India

Paper Hails Restoration of Ties With Nepal

BK2106094190 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 90 p 11

[Editorial: "A Successful Mission"]

[Text] The agreement between India and Nepal to restore the status quo ante in their relationship as it existed before April 1989 has a strong chance to succeed because it is reciprocal in character and takes care of mutual concerns. The communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's three-day visit to India on Sunday [10 June] is remarkable for it specifies exactly what the two sides are required to do to put their mutual relations, strained for several years, back on the rails. Thus, India will not impose basic duties or quantitative restrictions on import of primary and other products of Nepal with a 65 per cent Nepalese content, and allow certain other tariff concessions. This is bound to help Nepal plan its industrialisation. Petroleum and coal supplies will be resumed, as will be the 22 border points and 15 transit points for Nepal's third country trade. Nepal likewise has agreed to terminate orders of the previous regime withdrawing tariff preferences for Indian goods, and requiring work permits for Indians. In short, the two countries have gone back to the days when trade and transit arrangements between them had been worked out on the basis of what is commonly described as the special relationship between India and Nepal.

While the revival of the economic ties will immeasurably help the people of Nepal who have undergone severe hardships for over a year, what will give New Delhi particular cause for satisfaction is Kathmandu's appreciation of India's security concerns. That Nepal's perception in this matter has undergone a change since the triumph of a multi-party system over the partyless panchayat system was evident in Mr. Bhattarai's gesture before leaving for New Delhi. He had deferred the arrival of a consignment of Chinese arms ordered in 1988, which had caused considerable misunderstanding between the two countries. From reports on his talks with Indian leaders, it is apparent that Nepal will not allow misunderstanding with India to grow when it decides to make military purchases. Altogether the situation has been created for Mr. Bhattarai's Nepali Congress and the Left parties who are coalition partners of his interim government to work unhindered for giving the country a constitution. Hopefully, Nepal will elect a new popular government some time next year. Only after such a government has taken office can the two countries go into the details of Indo-Nepal economic and security relations, and restructure them, if necessary, in a manner the two consider desirable. Meanwhile, India's assistance to Nepal to rapidly overcome the difficulties faced by its people should be extended ungrudgingly. That alone will strengthen the democratic forces in Nepal, and lay the foundations of a stable and cordial relationship between the two countries. The level of mutual trust the two Prime Ministers developed in their talks in Delhi should also go a long way in improving understanding between the two countries. No two peoples can be friends unless they understand each other's difficulties.

Sikh Parties Boycott Meeting on Punjab

BK2106161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] The all-party meeting on Punjab held in Chandigarh today has stressed the need for creating a climate of confidence among all sections of people in the state and strongly condemned the continuous killings of innocent persons. The meeting convened by the state governor, Mr. Virendra Verma, was attended by the representatives of the CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Congress-I, Janata Dal, BSP [Bahuguna Samaj Party] and Akali Dal-Perumal Group. The meeting appealed to all patriotic and secular forces to come forward to foil the nefarious games of anti-national elements who are being abetted and aided by Pakistan. Through a resolution adopted unanimously, the meeting urged the governor to start the political process. The resolution called upon all to work for finding a political solution in the state within the constitutional framework and in the interest of the unity and integrity of the country. It called for fully involving the people in rebuilding the strife-torn state.

Akali Dal-Mann had earlier expressed its inability to attend the meeting. Representatives of Akali Dal-Badal and Akali Dal-Longowal also did not attend it.

The Punjab government has paid compensation amounting to about 12.65 crore rupees to the dependents of 3,419 people killed by terrorists in the three border districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Ferozepore. According to an official statement released in Amritsar today a sum of 9.32 lakh rupees has been given to 525 people injured by terrorists in Amritsar and Ferozepore districts.

In other developments in the state, 11 persons, including three terrorists, and three members of the security forces were killed and eight persons injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night. In one of the incidents, four persons, including two homeguard volunteers and the village sarpanch [headman], were killed and six others injured in a powerful bomb blast in village Puranashala in Gurdaspur District. Meanwhile, the security forces have arrested 12 more terrorists during raids in different parts of the state.

Paper on Reaction to National Government Proposal

BK1606121190 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 8 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "National Government: Reaction"]

[Text] Political parties have reacted as expected to the prime minister's proposal for a national government. The only surprise is that the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has described it as a political gimmick. Last year when a tug-of-war was going on within the Janata Dal to form a government after the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP itself had proposed the same in the name of some intellectuals, but no one had agreed to it then. Now that the proposal has come from the prime minister, the BJP sees some trick in it. Perhaps the BJP has had some bitter experience in dealing with the government during the last six months. But as the party is continuing its support of the government, it considers the proposal at least worthy of consideration.

The rest of the parties and some well-known leaders do not even want to deliberate on the proposal. [Communist Party of India leader] Harkishan Singh Surjit and [Janata Dal leader] Chandra Shekhar are of the opinion that such governments are formed only during emergency times like that of a war. The Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] is of the view that there should be a national consensus on issues like Punjab, Kashmir, and center-state relations, but other than this it considers the idea of a national government as impractical. The BJP will obviously be included in any national government, then how can the CPI-M sit with the BJP on the same platform after describing it as untouchable? Then again Congress-I is also untouchable for many parties. If political untouchability exists, what is the sense in having a national government? That is why the Muslim League's proposal for a national government without the BJP looks ludicrous. Congress-I had to state that the proposal reflects V.P. Singh's failure. Obviously, the party which V.P. Singh routed to become the prime minister cannot applaud his idealistic proposals.

It is difficult to guess whether V.P. Singh while disclosing the proposal to journalists wanted to use it to whip his opponents or to find a solution to the national problems, though he has used the proposal as a yardstick to measure his own popularity. But does he really want to form such a government? According to [Socialist Leader] Madhu Limay's reckoning the prime minister is not serious. Earlier, Mr. Limay had stated that a national government should include both the BJP and the two leftist parties. But to include Congress-I in it, perhaps, no one else except V.P. Singh's faction would agree to it. Only time will tell as to what public image the proposal has built for V.P. Singh, but the essence of the parties reaction is that V.P. Singh may well be willing to create a national government, but the country is not yet ready.

Iran

Further Reportage on Tehran Earthquake Situation

Over 25,000 Deaths

NC2206062090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Telephone report by unidentified reporter on the earthquake casualty toll—recorded]

[Text] The quake relief headquarters [HQ] in the Presidential Office has reported that the latest reports from the various quake-stricken areas put the casualty toll from the tragic quake on Thursday morning [21 June] at more than 25,000.

The report also states that following the formation of provincial relief headquarters under the supervision of the governors general and the esteemed representatives of the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult], in addition to the treatment of wounded people on the spot, so far 1,700 wounded people have been transferred to Esfahan, Tabriz, Shiraz, and Mashhad.

Since midnight last night, in addition to previous operations, more than 10 C-131 planes and 30 Chinook-214 helicopters are evacuating the wounded from the various quake-stricken cities.

Reports received by the quake relief headquarters at the Presidential Office indicate that the Tehran-Qazvin-Manjil highway, the Harat highway, and the Chalus-Rasht highway are open only to relief and support forces. The Firuzkuh-Harat highways are open to all vehicles. The quake relief headquarters has called on all the relief organs and headquarters to help the quake-stricken areas obtain needed loaders, bulldozers, mechanical shovels, and water tanks. Also, all the people are asked to help by depositing cash assistance in Bank Melli account number 900 and to donate blood to all the units of the Blood Organization to aid their quake-stricken compatriots.

Army Air Corps Mobilized

NC2206100690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] All the capabilities of the Army Air Corps have been mobilized to help the quake victims. Following an inspection by the commander of the army air corps in the quake-stricken areas, all the corps' bases were assigned to extend all their assistance to evacuate the wounded and to help the victims. The report indicates that as of 0615 [0245 GMT] today, 30 Army Air Corps helicopters had started flying in the quake-stricken areas.

Also, the engineering unit of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has used its capabilities to repair the damaged bridges in Lowsha, Rudbar, and Manjil and to ensure that surrounding villages have potable water.

All the hospitals affiliated with the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are also ready to accept the wounded and to treat the victims.

Foreign Condolences Received

NC2206110590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has sent a message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he expresses his condolences on the tragic earthquake disaster in our country. IRNA reports from the United Nations that the message says: I want to extend my deep condolences to you and to the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and especially to the families of the victims. The UN secretary general pointed out that the United Nations is ready to place all its capabilities at the disposal of the people in the quake-stricken areas. The secretary general added that the UN's emergency relief agencies have sent a delegation to Tehran to coordinate with the Iranian authorities, and emergency assistance will be sent to Iran immediately.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his condolences on the earthquake disaster in Iran. The Irish president also sent a message to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani extending his condolences to the president and to the Iranian nation on the recent quake and expressing sympathy for the victims of the disaster.

The French president sent a cable of condolences to our president, expressing his grief for the earthquake disaster in our country. Also, the French Foreign Ministry has announced that 180 French civil defense experts including about 20 doctors will leave for Tehran on Friday to participate in the relief operations. AFP reports that this relief group will leave today by a special Air France flight and will be taking 24 tonnes of assistance.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday sent a message to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his condolences on the earthquake in Iran and his and the Algerian nation's sympathy for the Iranian nation. In this message, the Algerian president has expressed his grief for the extent of the damages and has stressed Algeria's solidarity with Iran.

Bangladeshi President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has expressed his deep sorrow on the casualties and damages resulting from the earthquake in Iran. Bangladesh radio has announced that in his message to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ershad expressed his sincere sympathies and deep condolences.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma held a brief meeting with Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations at the UN Headquarters yesterday and expressed his condolences and deep sorrow on the quake in Iran. He asked our country's representative to convey the deep sorrow of the Namibian Government and nation to the Iranian Government and nation. Also, a large number of foreign representatives and diplomats at the United Nations met with Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations and expressed their sorrow on the quake in Iran.

The Turkish president and prime minister have sent separate messages to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and to First Vice President Mr. Habibi, extending their condolences on the tragic earthquake in Iran. IRNA reports from Ankara that in these messages Turgut Ozal and Ildirim Akbulut have expressed their sympathy and sorrow about the earthquake.

The news about the earthquake mobilized Iranians living in the United States into an effort to collect and to send relief to their compatriots. IRNA reports that the Iranian office at the United Nations has formed a relief headquarters comprising Iranian institutions in the United States and is coordinating the relief to Iran. The office which looks after Iran's interests in Washington too has been turned into a center for the collection of the Iranians' medicines and medical aid.

Kharrazi Confirms Velayati Invited to Geneva

LD2106144790 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] U.N. (New York), June 21, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations last night confirmed that the U.N. chief has invited Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers to talk with him in Geneva. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi said Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed the meeting in a bid to prepare the grounds for his visit to the Middle East.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the U.N. chief in late April to visit the region in order to accelerate the enforcement of U.N. Resolution 598. Later, Iraq also agreed with the visit.

"Iran firmly believes that implementation of Resolution 598 is the only way for establishment of peace between the two countries," said Kharrazi.

De Cuellar has invited the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers to meet him in Geneva during the Economic and Social Cooperation Council (ECOSOC) session to be held from July 1.

Meanwhile informed sources at the United Nations said de Cuellar apparently has new proposals for continuation of the peace talks. However, the contents are not known.

Paper Condemns 'Double Standard' on Hostages

NC2106124590 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Plight of Hostages in Lebanon"]

[Text] Islamic political ideology is opposed to the idea of nationalism and tends to bypass territorial boundaries when it comes to the conditions of Muslims anywhere in the world.

After the Palestinians in the occupied territories, it would not be an exaggeration if we said no community of people in the Middle East is more disadvantaged and oppressed than the Muslim people of Lebanon, particularly, the Shi'ites who constitute the sectarian Lebanon's largest minority. This fact and the idea of global Islamic fraternity have helped establish very special ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Muslim people of Lebanon right from the very beginning of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. To be exact, the ties between the two go back to well before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and to when Imam Musa Sadr and the late Dr. Chamran were leading the affairs of Muslims in South Lebanon.

After the outbreak of the civil war, the Israeli invasion in 1982 and foreign intervention in Lebanon a new chapter in the ties between the two was established. The ties were strengthened following the open alignment of the rightwing Christian groups with the West, particularly the United States which began to provide the extremist Christian groups with moral and material supports in their fight against Muslims.

It was at about this time—the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and intensified and open Western support for the Christian phalangists—that the idea of foreign hostage taking began to take root in Lebanon and the U.S.-supported Christian factions were the first ones to begin it. The first victims of this vicious idea were three Iranians along with their Lebanese driver who vanished at a Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia checkpoint in a coastal town north of Beirut. The fate of these hostages remains a mystery eight years after their disappearances.

In fact, the abduction of these four Iranian hostages activated a series of hostage taking that have involved the Western world about their plights ever since. Iran has linked any eventual resolution of the hostage issue to the release of these Iranians and has time and again asked the West, particularly the U.S., to help trace the four in return for using its influence with Muslim kidnappers of 16 Westerners which include seven Americans.

Following the release of the Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed in April hope began to mount that the plight was finally nearing an end but they were dashed when the Bush administration, in complete disregard for the fate of the Iranian hostages, refused to do anything to reciprocate the Islamic Republic's goodwill.

The American government seems to be anxious to do away as quickly as possible with the "messy" idea of Iranian hostages. They have been quick in announcing that the hostages are dead and that nothing can be done about them. This attitude is evident from a detached and unfriendly report released late last month by the White House. The report tried in as distantly and apathetically as possible to say that the hostages are dead without providing any explanations on the circumstances of their deaths and without even trying to condemn the act by their Christian kidnappers.

These hostages, just like their Western counterparts, are familymen and have got wives and children, with the difference that no one has ever come forward to ask them how they have tolerated the ordeal. If the same things (torture and consequent death) had happened to the Western hostages it would have been regarded as catastrophic and world condemnations would have come poured in nonstop. [as published]

It is exactly this double standard that bothers the Iranian government some of whose officials argue that Iran should stay away from any attempt at resolving the problem. The so-called hardliners (as referred to by the foreign media) in the Iranian government point at this double standard—one for Westerners and another for non-Westerners as used by the Western media and governments—argue that no friendly hand should be extended to the West.

Iran would have expected a concrete and humane gesture from the U.S. government in the report. One that would have shown the Americans understood and sympathized in as far as what has happened to the Iranian hostages. The report could have at least condemn the group or groups responsible for the brutalities done to the hostages as an expression of sympathy.

The Iranian government's official position on the fate of the missing Iranian hostages in Lebanon is that they are still alive to be eventually used as a bargaining chip. This fact was reaffirmed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani during a press conference last week. However, if they are dead, as the U.S. report claims "at least you can give us back their bodies or show their graves," as Hashemi-Rafsanjani said during another press conference in 1989. To just say that they are dead is not enough, some concrete proof should be given.

President Praises Afghan Islamic Unity Party

LD2106162590 Tehran IRNA in English 1503 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—The forming of the 'Islamic Unity Party' by the Iran-based Afghan coalition reveals the alertness of the mujahideen to the situation, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today. "There always exists difference of opinions, but general expediencies should be taken into consideration, since the Afghan Muslim people's movement needs to be vigilant now more than ever," he told members of the Central Council of the Islamic Unity Party.

With the struggle against occupiers coming to an end, said the president, Arab reactionaries and Western states do not feel the need to help mujahideen groups in the new stage unfolding in Afghanistan.

In fact he added "they (reactionaries and Westerners) only support those who serve their interests."

"Unfortunately some persons did not show sincerity as they were expected to, and were affected by monopolism," Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani regretted without elaboration.

He said the Islamic revolution considers it a duty to support the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and expressed hope that in the light of newfound unity, existing possibilities would be better exploited.

Afghan Mujahidin Leaders Interviewed 15 Jun

NC1506100490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The heads of representatives of various Afghan mujahidin groups based in Pakistan and officials of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan held a joint session and discussed ways to strengthen the unity of Afghan mujahidin. At the end of this session, our correspondents held a round-table discussion with the heads of the Afghan mujahidin.

At the beginning of the round-table, in answer to a question on the unity of Afghan mujahidin, Mr. Mowlavi Mansur pointed out: Unity among the Afghan mujahidin is very much necessary in the current phase because without unity it will not be possible to create an Islamic government in Afghanistan. The leader of Hezb-e Harakat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan added: All the jihad groups should tighten their ranks in regard to Najibullah's regime and to establish an Islamic republic. Mowlavi Mansur clarified: We want the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue to strive for the unity of the jihad forces in Afghanistan. He added: Now with the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the groups of the Nine-Party Alliance have unified in one party. But we want the unification of all the Afghan forces.

Mr. Mazari, an official of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, also attended the round-table and discussed ways to strengthen the Afghan mujahidin. He said: Under the current sensitive conditions, the mujahidin should hold a meeting on the national level. He said: Past experiences show that the grounds for unity exist.

Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani commented on the outcomes of the recent discussions on the Afghanistan problem between the heads of the United States and the Soviet Union and said: The meeting of the superpowers cannot, in any way, have positive results for the Muslims and we do not expect anything from them either. He said: The big powers do not think of solving the problems of Islamic countries. They only plot ways to obstruct solutions.

The leader of the Jami'yat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan Party added: The recent Bush-Gorbachev agreement on Afghanistan only intends to obstruct the mujahidin from gaining power. Burhanuddin Rabbani pointed out that the Afghan nation will not accept Zahir Shah in any way and will not allow any power to select a leader for the Afghan Muslims.

At the end of the round-table discussion, the Afghan mujahidin leaders pointed out: The Afghan nation has found its path and will continue on it until final victory.

Paper Criticizes Saudi Statement on Hajj

NC2106173590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Jun 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Al Sa'uds and a New Humiliation"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

The Al Sa'ud regime, which is more disgraceful than ever before, is hiding its hated face behind deceptive veils but the more it tries to do so, the less successful it is.

In its latest unsuccessful effort, the Saudi courtiers term the Muslims' actions, in particular those of the Iranians for "disavowal of pagans"—especially the United States and Israel—as "misleading campaigns." They pretend that there is no obstacle to the performance of the hajj rituals by Iranian Muslims, and that it is the Iranian Government that is unable to send Iranians on the hajj due to foreign exchange problems and financial difficulties.

REUTER reported that a Saudi official issued a statement declaring that Iranian media and officials were insisting on continuing their misleading campaign and claiming that that the Saudi monarchy is preventing Iranians from pilgrimage! This statement, which was disseminated for the first time by the Saudi news agency, said: "If, for financial or economic reasons the Government of Iran cannot permit Iranians to perform the hajj ceremonies, it should at least remain quiet and refrain from censuring the Saudi Government! [no closing quotation marks as published]

In the past three years that Washington delegated to the Saudi regime the task of preventing the Iranians' participation in the hajj ceremonies in all ways possible, the Saudi propaganda loudspeakers have resorted to all sorts of ruses and tactics to justify the absence of the Iranians at the hajj ceremonies. However, they have failed miserably every time. Their humiliation increased in the world of Islam and they have been unsuccessful in saving face despite attempts to conceal or distort eyewitness accounts of facts.

With the savage massacre of 400 pilgrims to the house of God within the sanctuary of divine peace at the "sanguinary hajj", the Saudi regime was in fact confident of superbly performing its assignment while simultaneously using multilateral propaganda to obliterate all signs of the atrocity it had perpetrated. However, the Saudis realized with anger and frustration that the more they make efforts or investments in this regard, the less likely are they to reap any benefits and the extent of their humiliation merely seems to increase.

Only warped elements and disseminators of lies, such as the Hejaz [Saudi] regime, could heap all the sins on the shoulders of the Islamic Republic of Iran and deny outright that it is making any attempts to obstruct the Iranians from performing the hajj. It is obvious that in this regard, the Saudis stand disgraced and their shame will only multiply with the passage of time.

All parties, especially the heads of states and reliable personalities who are trying to act as mediators and to persuade the Saudi regime to accept the facts, are fully aware that Iran has not had any "foreign exchange or financial difficulties" concerning the hajj and it is the Hejaz regime that is resorting to all sorts of pretexts and obstructionism whenever attempts are made to reach a possible compromise.

In the light of the above, there are two solid reasons for rejecting all the claims of the Saudi Government:

1. The Saudi regime has constantly created obstacles and hindrances to prevent the Iranians' participation in the hajj, such as reducing the number of the Iranian pilgrims from 150,000 to 45,000 for which they even lobbied at the foreign ministers' session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. The Islamic Republic of Iran, however, protested and demanded that 150,000 Iranians be permitted to perform the hajj. If the Islamic Republic of Iran was actually beset by financial problems, it would not have, on principle, insisted so strongly on sending more people on the hajj.

2. In view of the reverence and special credence that the Islamic Republic of Iran had, and has, for the hajj rituals, even at the peak of the imposed war, and at the height of its need for "foreign exchange" it did not even for a moment hesitate to provide for the fiscal needs of the pilgrims. Naturally, today, in view of the change in its foreign exchange conditions, no one is going to believe such foolish justifications of the disgraced Saudi regime and the propaganda loudspeakers affiliated to the enemies of Islam.

It would therefore be appropriate to air some grievances that we have with the relevant authorities as to why they do not act swiftly to counter such allegations when they are reflected in reports and why they do not take a stand on them. A response should be given immediately to every falsehood aired by the Saudi regime, so that the public opinion and the world of Islam can be better aware of what the facts are and who is speaking the truth. Even though the facts are absolutely clear on this issue, it is possible that any vacillation in responding to such absurd claims could generate some doubts in the minds of some, even if temporarily.

All facts and figures indicate that the Saudi regime sees itself under scrutiny and feels that it does not have any logical or clear justification on this issue. The Saudis undeniably feel that they face censure and serious protests before the world of Islam and do not have any reason for masking their comtemptible mission of preventing the presence of 150,000 Iranian pilgrims at the hajj ceremonies. Out of sheer impotence, they have resorted to citing pretexts such as financial and foreign exchange difficulties in Iran, in order to prevent the presence of the Iranians at the hajj.

This excuse was one for which the lackeys of the Saudis and their propaganda loudspeakers did not have any hopes of success, even for a moment. It is clear that the Saudi regime—which sought to fulfill its abominable mission bestowed on it by the United States and to prevent the presence of the Iranian pilgrims at the hajj—continues to be a target of protest and is under scrutiny by the world of Islam.

Habibi Receives Omani Minister Al-Balushi

LD2006154490 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Visiting Omani Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephones Ahmad Bin-Suwaydan al-Balushi conferred with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi today. In the meeting, al-Balushi expresed Sultan Qabus' keenness for cooperation and frequent contacts between the two countries and said his visit to Iran reveals this attitude particularly in the telecommunications field. He also expressed support for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 and said "We would the convey righteous positions of the Islamic Republic to our friends in the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council."

Habibi responded by taking note of the 'high level' relations between the two countries, and said Oman's positions in the region are important for Iran. The two countries face each other across the entrance to the Persian Gulf, and Habibi mentioned this fact by saying that "Iran and Oman, more than any other littoral state, should be sensitive towards the Hormuz Strait which forms part of their coastal waters."

"We should try not to allow foreign forces to have their presence in the region," he stressed.

The vice-president said Iran attaches great importance to the security of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, Oman Sea, and the Indian Ocean land and sea and international conventions." [no opening quotation marks as received]

Velayati Receives Message From FRG 12 Jun

LD1306201490 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today received a written message from his West German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The West German ambassador here Armin Freitag who submitted the message called for expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic and the gradually emerging united German state. He also briefed Velayati on the latest developments in the process to unify the two Germanies.

Iranian-Italian Chamber of Commerce Holds Session

NC1306064990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] The manifesto of the joint Iranian-Italian Chamber of Commerce was approved yesterday afternoon at a meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce, Mines, and Industry. During the meeting, which was attended by members of the organization as well as representatives of our country's Foreign Ministry and the Italian Embassy in Tehran, the members of the executive committee and inspectorate were elected.

The economic consultant to the mines and metals minister and the chief consultant to the Chamber of Commerce, Mines, and Industry of Iran briefed the session on the performance and scope of the Iranian-Italian Chamber of Commerce in expanding trade relations between the two countries.

The joint Iranian-Italian Chamber of Commerce was planned in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] and began limited operations in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] in both countries.

Trade Memo Signed With Denmark

NC1306060790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] A Danish trade delegation comprised of 34 government and private sector officials has departed after a four-day stay in Tehran during which it signed a memorandum of understanding.

According to the Central News Unit, the memorandum of understanding reviewed the current level of commercial relations between the two countries and noted the possibilities for their expansion.

During the talks between members of the Danish trade delegation and our country's officials, other forms of economic cooperation such as reciprocal purchase, compensatory transactions, and the establishment of joint companies were also assessed. It was agreed that the two sides will encourage the relevant firms in their respective countries in this regard.

Industries Minister Cited on Industrial Projects

NC1506092990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] In implementation of the plan for the people to participate in constructing industrial plants, 38,000 agreements in principle have been issued so far. Minister of Industries Mr. Ne'matzadeh added in Yazd that the implementation of semi-completed industrial projects, which total 7,000 plants, is a priority and that authority has been granted to provinces for agreements in principle on the setting up of new plants with investments of up to one billion rials.

Referring to the fact that 70,000 requests for building industrial plants have been received by the Ministry of Industries from all over the country, he said: A number of large industrial projects which are being implemented by the government will be handed over to the people after completion.

On encouraging exporters to supply the raw materials needed by factories, the Ministry of Industries said: Measures such as exchange of sales [bey'-e motaqabel], the payment of capital, and using the facilities extended by the fund for supporting exports have been envisaged and are being implemented.

Stating that there is a sufficient amount of foreign exchange needed by all the industrial plants in the country, he called on all the heads of industrial activities to submit their requests for foreign exchange to the general administrations of industries in the provinces or to the Ministry of Industries.

*RESALAT on 9 May Majles Session

90AS0095A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 May 90 p 11

[Text] Legal and Majles Department

A Letter From A Number of The Majles Deputies

To the Moslem nation of Iran, vigilant and brave children of imam:

In the heat of a struggle by world arrogance [the United States] to quell the epic and enthusiastic movement towards Islam, a movement which like a roaring torrent has wiped out the foundation of desires of world-devourers, and while whispers about the surrender of the holy Islamic revolution of Iran to world arrogance have caused a tumultuous situation, the Majles, that cherished legacy of the great imam and that invincible shelter for the defense of the Islamic revolution and the everlasting ideals of that great imam, has come under attack by the poisonous words of some misguided or self-interested individuals who publish misleading statements and articles to taint the reputation of this herald of continuity of the line of imam and revenge its revolutionary positions. Some bankrupt politicians who tread the path of the great Satan [the United States], have vainly attacked a great number of committed deputies for stressing the need to observe, with regard to the negotiations in Mecca, the principles and ideals of his holiness the imam as well as the explicit opinions of the supreme leader [Khamene'i]. They have assumed the role of a judge and, while ignorant of the meaning of the words they utter, have unjustly pronounced: "Verily, Hoseyn has dissented from the religion of his ancestor" [the pronouncement made by the enemies of imam Hoseyn, the grandson of the prophet Mohammad and a major Shi'i martyr].

Also, following the thrashing, decisive, and God-pleasing speech by the honorable Majles speaker, that indefatigable companion and ever-loyal disciple of his holiness the imam, on 1 April of this year when he made revolutionary attacks on parasites and those who terrorize the economy and declared the readiness of Majles to support the judicial and executive branches by approving Islamic laws for the punishment of degenerate persons who foster corruption, we have witnessed the publication of statements and articles by the representatives of those who are doomed by the revolution and those who explain away the activities of economic terrorists. In these articles, they attempt to justify the crimes of those who terrorize the economy. To maintain the welfare and greed of indolent capitalists and to protect them from the revolutionary wrath of the people carried out by the holy Islamic Republic system, they have brought up misleading issues whose main thrust is both to exonerate those who terrorize and corrupt the economic order and to denounce the governmental, semigovernmental, and legal institutions. They promote the interests of our enemies and pay their debt to their wealthy and hypocritical masters. We too are concerned and do not wink at the mistakes, mismanagement, and illegal gains on the part of some foundations, and governmental and nongovernmental institutions and demand prompt and categorical investigation by the responsible authorities into such instances. No man of perception would fail to understand that exaggeration of minor offenses and mismanagement committed by the government is a conscious and vain attempt to cover up the crimes of parasites and corrupters of the economic order.

Interestingly, there is no consistency between the issues which have been dictated to these individuals [by their masters] and published by them. These revengeful hypocrites have absurdly made an issue out of the financial assistance to a few Sunni brethren for the establishment of the splendid ceremonies of Solidarity Week and the new-year gifts to the honorable families of martyrs by the deputy Majles speaker. This assistance was provided through some representatives, as testified by the author of the article himself, without any political interests in mind. Although such practice has existed from the first term of Majles when His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the speaker and is not unique to the current speaker, still the provision of such assistance by the esteemed Majles speaker through representatives to the families of martyrs has been used as a pretext for the shameless attack on the holy institution of the Majles.

No sound-minded person would fail to discern that such moves are nothing but hopeless reaction against possible dangers stemming from the passing of revolutionary legislation for the punishment of parasites and those who terrorize the economy. The full picture emerges clearly when the writer of the article calls the discussion of such issues harmful to the economy. Because RESALAT newspaper, since the time of his holiness the imam, has chosen as its mission the publication of materials which threaten stability in the society, we request from His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Aqa Ahmad Khomeyni, the dear remnant of his holiness the imam (peace be upon him), to make available to the Majles and the public, if he deems it to be advisable, the blessed letter of his holiness the imam about the destructive approach of this publication. Then, the entire society would know the nature of this newspaper and its managers, as revealed by the holy pen of his holiness the imam, and people would be cognizant of the role which these individuals play.

In conclusion, we proclaim our gratitude and offer our appreciation to the honorable Majles speaker, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Karrubi, and express our solidarity with his just opinions and remind everyone that the opinions put forth during the speech on 1 April 1990 are the opinions of a majority of the Majles deputies. The enemies of the pure Islam of Mohammad (may God bless him and grant him salvation), and those who entertain ill will against it must know that the Majles follows and obeys the supreme leader, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, and acts according to the eternal and guiding ideals of the departed imam. Therefore, in spite of deceitful propaganda and hypocritical machinations, it shall never stop to hold high the standard of support for the oppressed, the deprived, the poor, and the persecuted. We perpetuate the imam's line with God's help, support from the people, and protection from the supreme leader.

It should be mentioned that the names of the deputies who signed [this letter] were not made available to RESALAT.

RESALAT's Response to the Letter from a Number of Majles Deputies

Following the publication of some articles regarding a recommendation by the honorable Majles speaker about the need to combat against those who terrorize the economy and the reference which was made in those articles to a few cases such as Raja' [Bonyad-e Roshd-e Jame'eh Eslami-ye Iran—Foundation for the Growth of the Islamic Society of Iran], al-Hadi, Vedad, etc. a letter which is claimed to have been signed by 143 honorable Majles deputies was read in yesterday's public Majles session. In spite of the efforts made, the names of the signatories were not made available [to RESALAT].

Dear Deputies! In your letter you have made accusations and statements which leads us to remind you of the following:

1. It is better if you read at least once the newspaper articles about the parasites and those who terrorize the economy so that you may find out the connection between [your] letter and those articles.

2. This hasty move to take a position, God forbid, causes suspicion about the Majles because the people wonder what is really going on. When we make reference to Raja' or al-Hadi, do these gentlemen assume that the entire Majles has been attacked? [As the saying goes:] "If the custodian does not observe the sanctity of the shrine, then who will?"

3. The question addressed to the deputy Majles speaker about the disbursement of money among the deputies could have been answered with a brief and honest explanation. Why should some deputies become disturbed about it?

4. Basically, why should one talk like this? Your words and phrases are laden with such hostility that it seems like you are talking about your most bitter enemy. We are all brethren and we can settle our differences amicably and become an example of "Believers mirror believers" so that each one of us may become a mirror of the shortcomings of others and insist on the principle of free speech, which is a pivotal principle of the revolution, for the protection of the Islamic republic from harmful consequences of any deviation.

5. You have asked the remnant of his holiness the imam, the honorable son of the founder of the Islamic republic, to make public the contents of a letter which in your opinion would reveal the nature of [RESALAT] newspaper to the people.

Dear Deputies!

A. Do you think that by disclosing such a letter the problem of the managers of Raja', Al-Hadi, etc. foundations will be solved?

B. A few individuals are trying to portray the unhealthy economic activities as a partisan issue and hide behind that issue. Why should the Majles deputies allow their reputation to be taken advantage of by such individuals? Don't they see that the more these gentlemen explain, the more ambiguous the situation becomes?

C. Suppose that in the letter from the imam of the nation to the proprietor [of the newspaper] he has issued some reminders. A few days after the letter was sent and in response to his [the proprietor's] answer, the imam wrote: "I have always liked you and never meant, God forbid, that you have committed anything against Islam."[1] And or that: "You are one of the learned and sympathetic combatants at the service of revolution."[2] One month before his departure, our dear imam appointed him [the proprietor of RESALAT] a member of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council to decide on one of the important matters of the revolution. Don't you think that by your action you have questioned the clear positions of the imam? Why do you make such obscene accusations in spite of the explicit opinions of our departed imam? If it is still unclear to you that the serious program to combat economic corruption is not a factional issue, at least listen to the counsels of the imam of the nation in his historic letter to Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad-'Ali Ansari about the two factions acceptable to him.

The imam of the nation (peace be upon him) writes explicitly in that letter: "The majority of the followers of both factions desire independence for their country. Both factions want to rid the people of the dominance and the mischief of the parasites attached to the government, bazaar, and street. Both want Islam to become a great power in the world."[3]

In the same letter, he writes: "Criticism which is just will help guide both factions. Nobody should see himself above criticism."[4]

If Imam Khomeyni (blessings of God's paradise be upon him) has confirmed both factions, why should you oppose one of the two factions and use a language such as: "We have witnessed the publication of statements and articles by the representatives of those who are doomed by the revolution and those who explain away the activities of the economic terrorists...;" "They promote the interests of our enemies and pay their debt to their wealthy and hypocritical masters...;" "Exaggeration of minor offenses and mismanagement committed by the government is a conscious and vain attempt to cover up the crimes of the parasites and corrupters of the economic order."

Are these statements prudent and wise? If the criticism contained in the editorials of RESALAT are justified, they should not be branded, rather they should be accepted because they only demand that attempts should be made to make up for the past. If the criticism is not justified, then "produce your proof..." [Koranic verse]. Offer your proof and clarify the public perception.

1 and 2—Ayatollah Azari-Qomi's letter to the imam and the imam's response, RESALAT 6 October 1989

3 and 4—The imam of the nation's guidance on the ideological and political events and eliminating the differences following Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari's letter to Imam Khomeyni, RESALAT 7 November 1989

The Zanjan Deputy's Speech in Yesterday's Public Majles Session

The third pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Bayat, the deputy from Zanjan and Tarom 'Aliya. He offered praise to the pure and holy soul of his holiness the imam (salvation of God be upon him) and greetings to the supreme leader, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, and said: The explicit, decisive, and strong position taken by the supreme leader has gladdened the heart of the imam of the revolution in the kingdom of heaven, satisfied the combatant nation of Iran and the oppressed in the world, and neutralized the deception by the great Satan, the world-devouring United States of America and its misguided agents.

He continued and said: I am surprised that when a revolutionary movement is initiated to benefit the deprived and the sufferers, and when the Islamic order and revolutionary institutions want to act, some individuals express concern and shout against the founders of the movement. They reveal their psychological problems in a variety of ways and start the sabotage. You may remember that when the national social security legislation was introduced by the government and the Majles approved it, some individuals felt uneasy. When the tax legislation was discussed, some individuals expressed the same concerns and opposed the legislation and offered unsound reasons, but still the Majles approved the legislation. When the government of His Excellency Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, proposed different versions of legislation for dealing with the problems of inflation, such as potato [hoarders] and foreign exchange, the same faction shamelessly began the sabotage, resisted the government in practice, filled their pockets, and increased the problems faced by the Islamic government. Later we learned that they had connections with abroad too. When the issue of decisive confrontation with economic corruptors was discussed, the judicial branch indicated the absence of laws to deal with the problem. The honorable Majles speaker declared the Majles' readiness to fill the vacuum and presented an urgent legislation to the public Majles session and it was passed by a decisive majority vote. As soon as the Majles was about to seriously pursue this matter and present a strong and decisive solution for confronting the parasites, we witness that an organ of the same faction has used poisonous words and various grounds for their usual attack on the head of the government in spite of the commandments of his holiness the imam (blessed be his soul) and the supreme leader who confirmed him. They did this instead of defending the timely move by the Majles and offering their suggestions to improve the legislation. They meanly branded and questioned the innocent servants of the Islamic order in the society.

Don't they know that deception is a sin, slander is forbidden, and disrespecting the believers is like disrespecting the Ka'abah? If they are not aware of this, why do they claim to know religious jurisprudence? If they are aware, then "Surely we belong to God, and to Him we return" [Koranic verse]. Mr. Bayat then added: I was not the founder of the Raja' foundation and don't even know when it was established. Because of the good standing of some of the authorities of the foundation such as Dr. Nurbakhsh, the honorable minister of economic affairs and finance, who is a member of the current government of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I accepted to serve on the board of trustees and attended only three meetings before I resigned. I will make the resignation letter available to the newspapers. I work for the [Islamic] government. Isn't this form of confrontation on nasty and repulsive grounds, grounds which are untrue and false and therefore punishment for each one of them is 74 lashes, rooted in the bad intentions of individuals who attempt to frame others? Doesn't this indicate an unethical and worthless move? Wouldn't this remind us of the slanders against 'Ali (may God grant him salvation) [the successor of Mohammad according to Twelver Shi'ite sect] during the time of Mu'awiya [the founder of the Umayyad dynasty who became caliph after the assassination of 'Ali in 661 AD] when they accused 'Ali of abandoning the obligatory prayer? I am wondering what secret connections exist between these individuals and the economic corruptors? As soon as this discussion is brought up in the Majles, they begin to shout. Do they feel uneasy because they see a relationship between combating the economic corruptors and confronting the United States of America? They want to use this as a pretext to diminish the importance of this revolutionary legislation and ultimately keep the door of negotiations with the United States of America open to the parasites. If it wasn't because of the decisive position of the supreme leader, only God knows what would have been the outcome of this political instigation. Don't you claim to be protectors of government and supporter of our great president? Why did you cause such a tumult and weakened the government when the honorable interior minister changed the governor of one of the provinces within Tehran jurisdiction? It is obvious that your selfish desire is your imam. Why there wasn't any discussion about that destructive move against the government of the honorable president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani? Isn't this the same old method you used against the government of the imam? Why did you pretend to be giving admonition to the Muslim nation and the heads of three branches of government when you wrote obscenely about the financial assistance given through the honorable deputies to help the families of martyrs, educational [activities], and other similar affairs? This assistance has been common for a long time as a good act by the honorable Majles speaker and was also carried out many times by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. You wrote the same way about the assistance given to our Sunni brethren for Solidarity Week and offended all those who love the Islamic revolution. Aren't you aware that I have been given permission by his holiness the imam (blessed be his soul) to practice law? This has been authorized by His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Araki whose written authorization I will make available to the newspapers. Because I am trusted by the people and they care for me, they make available to me resources which are used for the assistance I provide. Such assistance is not drawn from public funds. How do you dare to question the Majles and its deputies when you are ignorant of both the problem and the subject? You managers of so-and-so a newspaper! "Where then are you going?" [Koranic verse] Why do you twist the issues for your own political aims? Weren't you the ones who altered the words of the imam? Weren't you the ones who annoyed the imam until you were rebuked by his holiness (peace be upon him)? You are doing the same thing about which the imam (blessings of God's paradise be upon him) rebuked you as you yourselves confessed. Aren't you going to change and repent? Why don't you change and why aren't you afraid of the painful punishment of God? Beware that in the near future, the Majles and the committee on economic affairs will have the legislation ready to deal with the economic corruptors and will eliminate some of these corruptors for the good of the public and to the interest of the Islamic Order so that the [influencing] hand of the world-devouring United States of America is permanently severed. Inspired by the teachings of the imam and the recommendation of the supreme leader, we shall prove decisively in action that the United States of America is capable of doing nothing.

He added: I advise you, especially those of you at the top of the newspaper management who claim to know religious jurisprudence, stay away from these issues. It is a pity. They are professors of the seminary, they are learned, they need to dissociate themselves from this move against his holiness the imam. I advise you to fear the wrath of God, the wrath of the Hezbollah [party of God] nation. Do not violate the bounds of modesty and politeness, change and repent for the positions you have taken and expressed against the opinion of the imam. You were rebuked. I am concerned that you may be rebuked by the Supreme Leader. Wake up and save yourselves from the bondage of your arrogant selves and the Satan within and without you. I will quote for the representatives and the Hezbollah nation the exact words of the imam about your line of action so that they know what you have done to the revolution. Imam said: "These gentlemen must be careful so that their words will not weaken the Islamic republic and I notice some of their words are like that." This same Mr. Azari-Qomi responded to the imam and wrote: "I know that your letter and reference is about us." If you know, why don't you repent? Why don't you change? Why do you accuse the innocent representatives and, God forbid, like flies look for the shortcomings? Isn't there something positive about Mr. Vala'i? Why do you attack him? Isn't there something positive about Mr. Ghaffari? Why do you attack him? My dear ones! You can't deny this. I repeat "Where then are you going?" Fear God and seek refuge in Him. I swear by God that I see you heading for hell. I was reading some of the traditions in Safinat-ol Bahar and see your future and your line of action as "the bone meal for dogs in hell."

A Question For Mr. Bayat, the Representative of the People of Zanjan, About the Raja' Foundation

Your Honorable Mr. Bayat, the representative of the great people of Zanjan: Your speech in response to the RESALAT newspaper editorials entitled "To Eradicate the Roots," which were written about the decisive and principled combat against parasites, was a repetition of the same falsehood, slanders, and accusations leveled against the newspaper and its managers over the years. For now we are not going to respond to them.

The newspaper editorial was about the roots of economic corruption, and based on evidence, it was proven that one of the roots of the increasing severity of the deprivation of the oppressed and accumulation of wealth [by a few] is the appearance of so-called non-profit institutions, foundations, and companies in the private sector. In their operations, they violate the laws and ultimately harm the economy and, in a short period of time, they gain millions of tomans. Among them reference was made to the Raja' foundation. In many instances, we have asked that the roots of parasites and economic corruptors must be eradicated, but we have opposed the argument that the problem lies in the absence of laws. We have emphasized that the revolutionary courts must confront the parasites both in the private and government sectors. Unfortunately, instead of stating a rational opinion about the roots of economic corruption or instead of defending yourself, in your speech you have presented the issue as a factional matter. With most obscene phrases, you have attacked the faction that opposes you—this you did in spite of the advice given in the Charter of Brotherhood by his holiness the imam (peace be upon him). You have accused them of both opposition with the persecuted and protection of the parasites, smugglers of foreign exchange, and hoarders of potatoes, and you have called them supporters of the establishment of relations with the United States.... For this, you must answer in the court of Islamic justice.

Unfortunately, your response about membership in the Raja' foundation, has not removed the ambiguities. We had written that the Raja' foundation is an example of exercise of political influence to accumulate wealth and expand a power base which relies on and encourages discrimination and exclusiveness. You said that you have resigned from the foundation. Do you accept our analysis about the Raja' foundation? Are you saying that you dissociated yourself from that mischief? Or, as the statement of your resignation shows, you consider the economic activities of Raja' to be proper and defendable? In this case, it was better if you had stated your reasons for defending them.

The other point is that the date of your letter of resignation is 14 February 1988 while in Mehr of 1367 [23 September-22 October 1988] you were a member of the board of trustees of the Raja' foundation and signed the last page of the minutes of the meeting of the board. The last page is printed here for your attention. What is your answer in this regard?

Unfortunately, all our questions about this subject have remained unanswered. How does a foundation whose initial capital was a copy of the Koran participates in extensive economic, industrial, and commercial activities? What is the present capital of this foundation? Where did such a capital come from and how has it been spent?

In your letter of resignation, you have called working for the Raja' foundation as "holy and divine activity." If becoming wealthy in this manner is holy and divine, why did you resign? And if it is illegal, why don't you confess to it?

You have given your many engagements and preoccupations as reasons for resignation and instead of condemning the corruption of such foundations, you consider the people who work there to be "devoted."

There are other economic activities which will be discussed as the need arises.

Your honorable Mr. Bayat: In your speech yesterday, you said: "...I swear by God that I see you heading for hell...." In your opinion, do those who have accumulated millions of tomans in a short period of time through their privileges and monopolies in a foundation which started with a copy of the Koran as its capital, deserve to go to paradise? Are we bound for hell because we want the roots of economic corruption to be eliminated, and the parasites in government institutions, bazaar, and street to be confronted with? If this is what you believe, then we say, as Mowlavi said:

A man told his ugly wife named Tuba [blessedness: name of a tree in paradise], if you are indeed the Tuba, I pass up the paradise.

[Text of letter]
[Emblem]
Foundation for the Growth of the Islamic Society of Iran
[Raja' Foundation]

Number: 467/B
Date: 17 October 1988
Attachments: Yes

The minutes were approved and Sa'id Manuchehr Pour-Na'ini was authorized to register the minutes and sign the books.

[signatures]
Mohsen Nurbakhsh
Asadollah Bayat
Gholam-Hoseyn Naderi
Mohammad Baqerian
Abol-Qasem Jamshidi
Mohsen Safa'i Farahani
Mohammad-Mohsen Sazgara

Signature of new members:
Mohammad-Reza Buzari
Reza Rowhani
Manuchehr Gharvi

[emblem]
Islamic Republic of Iran
Islamic Consultative Assembly

Number
Date

In the name of God
The Honorable Raja' Foundation—The Growth of Islamic Society [Roshd-e Jame'eh Eslami]

Greetings be upon you

I thank you for your sincere and devoted services and I am grateful for the kindness you have shown me. Out of kindness and goodness towards me, you asked that I become a member of the board of trustees and I accepted as I have known the other members of the board of trustees to be sincere and committed individuals. As you know, because of many engagements and various preoccupations, I have been able to attend only a few of the meetings during which I had a chance to be closely involved with your work. Since I know that many preoccupations which I have will prevent me from attending the meetings and therefore I will not be able to engage closely with your sincere work, I officially resign today (14 February 1988) and wish you success from God in your holy and divine activity.

[Signed] Asadollah Bayat

14 February 1988

*RESALAT Report on 13 May 90 Majles Session

90AS0092A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
14 May 90 pp 5, 9

[Text]

Islamic Councils Law Discussed in Majles Yesterday

Legal and Majles Department:

Continued Consideration of the report from the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning amendments to the National Islamic Councils Law was the first item on the agenda of yesterday's public Majles session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, during continued consideration of the above proposal, the following articles were approved by the deputies:

Article 1: Article 5 is amended as follows, and notes One and Two will remain exactly the same:

For each of the Islamic councils whose members are elected directly, the five runners-up in the vote count will serve as reserve members.

Article 9: The following notes will be added to Article 6 as Notes 3 and 4:

Note 3: In the councils that are formed indirectly, to replace the number of council members who may be missing for some reason, the shortage of members will be made up from the subordinate council.

Note 4: If the member nominated from the subordinate council is not elected to membership in the higher council, he will not be removed from membership in the subordinate council.

Article 10: Note 4 Article 21 is amended as follows:

Note 4: In the event that any one of the councils is dissolved in accordance with legal regulations, the Ministry of the Interior must hold new elections within three months, and the Ministry of the Interior will act for the councils until the next elections.

Article 11: Paragraph A Article 24 is amended as follows, and a new paragraph called Paragraph T is added to the above article:

A. Minimum age 25 years.

T. Able to read and write.

Article 12: Article 25 and its note are amended as follows:

Article 25: The number of members of the rural Islamic council is five persons.

Note: After counting the votes, if it is not possible to confirm two or several of the elected members because of tie votes, priority will go to the individual or individuals with the highest academic credentials, and if their academic credentials are equal, they will be chosen by drawing lots.

Article 13: Article 9 is amended as follows:

Article 9: In the housing societies outside the legal limits and municipal and rural boundaries with a minimum of 500 parcels of land for building independent housing units or apartments that can be owned by individuals, in addition to buildings and installations created for public and social use of workers in the social and economic sectors of a region or for the use of the people, or societies having a population of more than 10,000 persons or that are legally and by common law practice known as towns, a town Islamic council shall be formed.

Note 1: The members of the town Islamic councils will be elected directly by the residents, and the councils will have five members.

Note 2: The regulations in the Apartment Ownership Law concerning the method of managing and collecting common costs pertaining to the maintenance and protection of private and common luxuries and facilities will be observed with regard to the town. In addition to the duties given in Article 19 of the National Islamic Council Formation Law, the town council will have the following duties and discretions:

(1) Supervision of the implementation of health regulations, maintaining sanitation, and creating the proper conditions for the procurement of health care.
(2) Encouraging the people to do charitable works and to create places and facilities for public use.
(3) Planning and coordinating the formation of cooperatives and supervising them in their precinct of activity.
(4) Establishing public libraries and reading rooms by obtaining the cooperation of residents and appropriate organizations.
(5) Supervision and follow-up for allocated development projects.
(6) Approving and setting fares for town transportation facilities.

Article 14: Article 14 is amended as follows and two notes are added to it:

Article 14: After the order to begin elections is issued by the Ministry of the Interior at the center of each municipality and district, the municipal and district executive councils will be formed chaired by the governor and the district governor, and with membership consisting of the highest judicial authority in the area, the chief of the registries office, the chief of the office of education and training, a representative of the reconstruction crusade, and six reliable residents of the area.

Note 1: In any area where it is deemed advisable by the Ministry of the Interior, after the central supervisory council is designated and confirmed, the elections will be stopped.

Note 2: In districts where there is no office of education and training, registries office, and prosecutor's office, the representatives of those offices will serve in their place.

Article 15: Article 16 will be amended as follows:

Article 16: The reliable persons selected under Article 14, at the invitation of the governor and the district governor, will meet within two days after the elections, and with a quorum of two-thirds of those invited, they will elect by secret majority vote six of their own number as the six main reliable persons and six others as alternate reliable persons for the executive council.

Article 16: Article 17 is amended as follows:

Article 17: The governor or the district governor must invite the six main reliable persons to attend the meetings of the executive election council.

Article 17: Article 18 is amended as follows, and its three notes will remain exactly the same:

Article 18: Meetings of the executive council will be official with a two-thirds quorum, and if any of the reliable persons on the executive committee resigns or if he misses three meetings without good reason, which will be treated as resignation, the governor or the district governor will invite the next highest alternate reliable person in the vote ranking.

Article 18: Article 20 is amended as follows:

Article 20: The administrative members of the executive council must personally attend the meetings of the executive council as long as they do not resign or are not fired from their administrative positions, and their absence without good reason at the meetings of the executive council will be treated as dereliction of legal responsibilities, and the governor or the district governor, immediately after the absence of members of the administrative members of the executive council, must report the incidents with the reasons for absence to his superior.

Article 19: Article 22 is amended as follows:

Article 22: The executive council of the municipal center must conduct the elections for the local Islamic councils in the local area and the cities and districts within the municipalities.

Article 20: Article 23 is amended as follows:

Article 23: The district executive council must carry out elections for the rural Islamic councils.

Article 21: Notes 1 and 3 of Article 29 are amended as follows:

Note 1: Those volunteering to the governor or the district governor must do so within 10 days of the date set in the registration announcement.

Note 3: The district executive council in each district must, after the publication of the aforementioned advertisement, appoint and dispatch a council for one or several villages composed of three persons to register the names of volunteers in the rural areas, so that they can register the volunteers within 10 days.

Article 22: Article 30 is amended as follows and its note will remain exactly the same:

Article 30: Concerning the background investigation of the volunteers belonging to the rural Islamic councils, the district executive council will obtain the necessary information from the intelligence office and local sources. Within 10 days the intelligence office will announce its opinion on the background of the volunteers to the district executive council.

Article 23: Article 31 is amended as follows:

Article 31: The investigation of the competence of the urban volunteers with regard to the areas of competence mentioned above in this law will be carried out in the municipal executive council after background information on them is requested from the municipal registry, the Ministry of Intelligence, the Ministry of Justice, the Identification Discernment Office, and the International Police.

Article 24: Article 32 is amended as follows:

Article 32: Within 15 days of obtaining the names and particulars of the volunteers, the authorities mentioned in Article 31 must announce in writing the results of their background investigation.

Article 25: Article 33 is amended as follows and its note is deleted:

Article 33: Within five days of obtaining the results of the background investigation of the volunteers, the municipal executive council must consider the competence of the volunteers and announce the result.

Article 26: The note for Article 36 is amended as follows:

Note: Within five days of receiving complaints, the district executive councils must investigate them and submit opinions to the municipal executive council to facilitate a decision in the joint session.

Article 27: Article 38 is amended as follows:

Article 38: If it is the view of the supervisory council that the elections must be nullified, new elections will be held at the first opportunity after approval from the central supervisory council.

Article 28: Article 40 is amended as follows:

Article 40: None of the members of the executive and supervisory councils or the members of the registry and voting branch office may have a first-degree in-law or familial relationship (father, mother, child, brother, or sister) with any of the candidates, with the exception of the rural areas, where there will be no objection to first-degree in-law relationships.

Article 29: The following note is added to Article 42:

Note: The report received from the investigators mentioned in this article will be studied by the councils mentioned in Article 36, and a decision will be obtained.

Article 30: Note 1 Article 45 is amended as follows:

Note 1: In the event of a violation of the responsibilities given in this law with regard to Article 75 of the Islamic Consultative Council Law, the administrative members of the executive council will be punished in court proceedings, and the other members will be prohibited from holding membership in the executive and supervisory councils and the voting branch office for two elections.

Article 31: Article 56 is amended as follows and its note will remain exactly the same:

Article 56: In the election of the local Islamic councils, seven persons will be directly elected as the main members, five will be elected directly by the people as alternate members, according to the regulations of this law.

Article 32: Article 59 is amended as follows:

Article 59: With the attendance of a two-thirds quorum of those invited as given in the above article, the official status of the meeting will be announced by the governor or his representative, and then those present at the meeting will vote by secret ballot to choose seven persons as members of the regional Islamic council, and the details will be recorded in the record of proceedings that will be signed by those present and the members of the supervisory council.

According to this report, the second item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was the report from the First Council of the Plan and Budget Commission concerning the proposal to amend Table 6 of the First Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan for the Islamic Republic of Iran. After talks by opponents and supporters, and the views of the commission expert and the government representative were heard, a vote was taken on this entire proposal and it was approved.

The third item on the agenda at this session was the report from the First Council of the Islamic Guidance and Art Council concerning the proposed law on the implementation procedure for Principle 175 of the Constitution in the supervisory sector, and this proposal was rejected in the commission by a majority vote.

After talks by two opponents and one supporter concerning the rejection of this proposal, due to the shortage of time, continued consideration of this proposal was postponed to the next public session.

The Majles will meet in public session tomorrow morning.

Let Us Remove the Problems of the Hungry and Destitute

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public session was Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, from the Tehran electoral district.

He began by reading the noble verse from the Koran: "Obey God and his Prophet and fall into no disputes, lest your power depart." He said: We all know what the foreign analysts were predicting for Islamic Iran after the imam (may God have mercy on him) before his holiness the imam (may God uplift him) passed away. They believed that if there was any continuity, if the Islamic government was stable, and if there was any focal point, it was thanks to the existence of his holiness the imam. If he died, Iran would become the center of domestic conflict and a war for power, and every individual or group would pull the revolution in a different direction. They accordingly counted the days to the imam's departure when domestic conflict would clear the way for the return of the mercenaries of world imperialism from right and left. The passing of that exceptional human being of history, however, like his life, as he himself said, created such a wave that the analysts were confounded as always. Immediately the experts of the people, taking inspiration from the words and guidance of the great imam, elected the exalted leader of the revolution, once again confusing and astonishing the sworn enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution of Iran, and they received such a shock that they appear not to have recovered from it yet. A leader was chosen whose firmness and decisiveness in implementing the commands of God and the law, his directness in stating the truth, his courage in the struggle with world imperialism, his uncompromising stance towards all forms of untruth, and in a word who is reminiscent in every way of the great leader of the revolution, his holiness the imam (may God uplift him). His cry against America last week and his statement that America can do no wrong and that no one has the right to talk with America without his permission, all bespeak the truth that "God knows who will carry out his mission." The more we go and the more we think, the more we see the grace of God in bringing us such a jewel, while on the other hand the despair and hopelessness of the sworn enemies of this government increase, and they become more aware of the futility of their empty analyses.

Continuing, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: Especially when the sworn enemies of the government see that the Majles gave a vote of confidence to the cabinet of the esteemed president of the republic, who had the confidence of his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified) and the exalted leader of the revolution, his holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i (may God prolong his life), meaning His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and when they see that the Majles and the Council of Guardians approved the government's Five-Year Plan, and that the toiling government carries on its work without stopping, and that it stands up manfully against every stone thrown by any person, whether from the right or from the left, and it cuts off the calculated economic plans prepared by the brokers, leeches, and gold diggers under whatever plan, name, or sign, they become more despairing and hopeless.

The Tehran deputy added: Brothers and sisters, at this point in time, in the absence of our dear imam, let us join hands to follow without question the exalted leader and chief theologian, and in this era of national reconstruction let us hasten to the aid of the respected president of the republic by enacting fateful legislation and help the government by providing effective and efficient programs, and instead of having domestic wars, branding each other in the newspapers and from the sacred Majles tribune, and attacking one another, which only benefits others and takes us farther away from religion, piety, justice, and humanity, and throughout the history of the struggle and the revolution the imam's cry was to preserve these values, instead of domestic wars and branding, let us think of the hungry and destitute people, and take a practical step towards alleviating their problems, because a government without justice and a presidency without piety and a government and a presidency that do not protect the honor of human beings, and in short, government for government's sake, is condemned.

The Tehran deputy added: Definitely these struggles are not the cure for the pain of the deprived classes. There will be no home or housing for that homeless mobilization member with his wife, child, and mother and father, it will not alleviate the problems of that poor wage earner, it will not answer the cries of that orphan without a guardian, and it is no answer to that young woman with several children who writes, "sometimes my children moan for fruit." Let us sit together and convert the four-shift schools in Tehran to two-shift schools by encouraging the people, starting a school crusade, and building schools. What project can be designed to save the youth of this nation, who, in the words of the great leader of the revolution, are being assaulted by a depraved culture, so that they will not be drawn into corruption and addiction? Let us sit and think about foreign policy, and decide how to come to the aid of the oppressed Muslims of Palestine, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Lebanon. How can we tolerate a handful of Zionists ruling over the lives, property, and honor of Muslims, arresting any woman or girl they wish, entering any home they wish in the middle of the night and doing whatever they wish, while we are back in the alley fighting each other?

He emphasized: I am not saying we should cover up violations and law-breaking, I am not saying we should not prevent the loss of rights and public money, I am not saying we should not cut off the hands of the leeches who are in no pain and those who will not allow the government's economic policies to go forward, I am not saying that if someone abuses the public treasury we should not investigate, I am saying that instead of attacking each other in the Majles and in the newspapers, making our enemies happy and disappointing our friends, while the fruit of this is that the revolution itself takes what we say and laughs in all of our faces, for every conquest benefits the winner and hurts Islam, while this procedure does not even restore rights to the one who has the rights. Let us come and make a plan that will begin by preventing this unhealthy kind of profit-taking, and where cases warrant, let us turn them over with the evidence and documents to the judiciary, and ask the judiciary to make a quick and clear investigation and to think about our interests in these cases. If the defendant is innocent, it should be announced and his honor should be restored, and if he is found to be guilty of crimes and violations, that should be announced. Whoever is a thief, whoever is a hoarder and a seller at high prices, whether in the private, government, or cooperative sector, the foundation or organization must be announced and the violator punished so that all will be treated equally.

In conclusion, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: As a brother and Majles member, I ask the Majles deputies and the newspaper owners not to continue these recent clashes, for surely "words lead to words." Both sides, whatever documentation they may have, they should give to the judiciary to investigate, and beyond this, issues of this kind should not be aired in public.

Asadollah Tabe', Miyan-e Do Ab Deputy

Imam-like Statements of Exalted Leader Batter America's Satanic Face

Mr. Asadollah Tabe', Miyan-e Do Ab, Takab, and Sa'in-Dezh was the second and final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session. He praised the pure soul of the late leader of the revolution, his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified), and His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and he discussed the exalted leader's recent remarks. He said: The imam-like statements of the exalted leader created a fresh hope for the hearts of believers and the deprived of the world, and he hit Satanic America in the face so hard that the glory and radiance of the Islamic revolution was once again made clear to all the nations of the world, and the beastly nature and character of world-devouring America was made known by the divinely-inspired leader who is the rightful successor to our great imam.

He then thanked the people of the land of Miyan-e Do Ab, Takab, and Sa'in-Dezh for their participation in the great Jerusalem Day march.

The people of this land, with their solidarity of attendance for Jerusalem Day, turned this land into a garden of living shrouds protecting Islam against domestic and foreign enemies. Just as our late Imam has remained unknown to today's world, his nation, after his passing, has astonished all the analysts, for everyone knows that the greatest proof of the historical value of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that it belongs to the people, and if, God forbid, in the course of time we were to lose the precious and great divine capital of this revolution, in reality we would lose the revolution. It is thus incumbent upon us to preserve and guard this evidence of pride and great divine capital, meaning the nation of the Imam, whose fruit is a memento of our late leader, and we must realize that if the national and military officials have dealt with the issues in all the international arenas firmly, powerfully, and from positions of strength, and have portrayed world imperialism in the eyes of the deprived nations of the world as the most despicable governments, it arises from solid people power, for our wise Imam repeatedly ordered the officials to keep this loyal nation involved in public affairs.

He added: Today, more than ever, economic pressures weigh heavily on the shoulders of the deprived and the indigent, who are the benefactors of the revolution. By putting the wheels of the economy into motion, raising the level of factory production, let us do our utmost, God willing, to overcome all the shortages with greater production, quicker distribution, and fuller market saturation, and it must not be forgotten that agriculture is crucial in this matter. I consider it necessary that the potential natural resources in West Azarbaijan, with the limitless power of God and in a very good way, including water, soil, pastures, mines, and forests, be distributed throughout the province and we must inform the planners and executive officials so that, God willing, these resources will be considered in the economic planning.

Mr. Tabe' enumerated the salt plains that have been identified in the province, and he added: Of the 43,660 square kilometers in West Azarbaijan, there are about 1 million hectares of arable land. Unfortunately, with more than 6 billion cubic meters of water, and unfortunately of the area's salt plains only a small percentage is cultivated every year, and the province's 6 billion cubic meters of water flow into Lake Urmia during flooding after drenching desirable lands and pastures. This province, with its potential natural resources in the areas of agriculture, mines, and pastures, has at least 13 deprived districts and hundreds of deprived areas, to whose many problems I will refer briefly. The district of Miyan-e Do Ab, with an area of 13,000 hectares, is in a very fruitful area, and despite its first-class agricultural crops, because of advancing salinization every year between 12 and 15 percent of the land is lost to agricultural use and the people are left with no option but to leave the area for the nation's cities, and the Ministries of Energy, Agriculture, and Construction Jihad must take note of the following issues to revitalize this land:

(1) They must expedite drainage operations and complete the drainage of the area according to a schedule within five years. If done within two to three years, this would be a great and significant help to the nation's economy, but if the project takes too long, by the time we complete the final drainage project, more than half the land will be lost because of the rapid salinization, the former draining will have been lost, and it will be necessary to start over.

(2) The floods caused by the overflow of the Zarinehrud and Saminehrud Rivers must be controlled, for every year or every other year they happen, flooding about one percent of the villages and causing major economic damage to the nation and loss of life and property to the rural people of the area, ruining their lives. For example, because of the flood of 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] the sugar beet crop dropped from 216,000 tons the previous year to 74,000 tons, meaning that the losses from that flood to this crop alone were more 18.2 million kilograms of sugar, because for every ton of sugar beets an average of 130 kilograms of sugar is produced, and if the value of sugar is figured at 50 tomans per kilogram, the financial loss is more than 90 million tomans, and if we figure sugar at half a dollar per half kilogram, we lost more than 9 million dollars in foreign exchange. How much of these losses must we endure? It would be better if we build flood control dams as soon as possible on the Zarinehrud and Saminehrud rivers, so that, God willing, this impotence-causing disaster will be prevented.

(3) Although Miyan-e Do Ab is a city between two rivers full of water (perhaps you don't believe this), the drinking water in this city has been rationed, and several areas in the city do not have potable water. In reality, the name Miyan-e Do Ab [between two waters] has become a misnomer for its people, and it is no more than a mirage.

(4) Due to the lack of sewage, the city has become a cess pool and in this city of 100,000 people, there is not a single proper bathhouse. In all the cities, flowers greet those arriving at the gates of the city, but in our city travelers are greeted by various forms of garbage, so that every newcomer to the city is either poisoned or afflicted by a bowel disorder because of the polluted air and water. The Ministry of Energy must expedite study and planning to provide water and sewage service to this cursed city.

(5) In a province with a population of 370,000 people, Miyan-e Do Ab is the most populous city after Urumieh, but it lacks any kind of university center. It is deprived of any kind of bypass road, and every year a number of people lose their lives because of the heavy traffic. With regard to hospitals, the existing beds do not satisfy the needs of patients, so that for a hernia operation and other comparable operations one must remain on a waiting list for eight months. The city is without any kind of natal care facilities and the lack of specialist physicians is another factor in the provision of medical services.

(6) The numerous decision-making centers for the sale of the people's property have completely paralyzed the lives of the people, and after 600 years of life in this city, most of the people do not own homes, and to obtain a listing one must go back and forth between the mayor and the urban lands office for six months, finally returning to the parental home tired and without result. This situation has produced economic stagnation and a lack of income for the government. There are numerous problems like this evident in this city, each one in some way putting pressure on the life of the people, and we have informed the respected president of the republic. We ask him to order an investigation.

In conclusion, he discussed the problems in the districts of Takab and Sa'in-Dezh. He said:

In the district of Takab, the people are deprived of the most elementary facilities for health care and hygiene, classroom space, exercise areas, roads and fuel, and we have repeatedly informed the appropriate officials. However, as yet no one has been found to give a serious answer to these problems. That very unwholesome water that has been rationed to a limited number of people once every eight hours has been cut off for more than 10 days, and no one has yet taken the responsibility of turning it on again. The people spend most of their time getting water for their ritual ablutions and bodily needs. They go to the villages, and after traveling kilometers they bring a few pails of water back to the city. This city of 50,000 has cried so much without result that it has finally tired of it and sealed its lips. It struggles with all the shortages so that, God willing, the appropriate officials will feel responsible and seek to solve these social problems.

The district of Sa'in Dezh, with extensive animal husbandry resources, 50 kilometers of rich fire clay mines with deposits of 1 million tons and with seven to 11 percent mercury, rock coal, and other ores alongside the Zarinehrud River, is one of the nation's deprived districts. I must say that in this entire city there is not even 100 square meters of standard asphalt to be found, yet if there were precise planning and proper management, this city, in addition to alleviating the shortages in the region, could be one of the nation's strong sources of foreign exchange. Likewise, throughout the province 400,000 tons of apples and grapes are harvested, and if we could export only 20 percent of that and bring half a dollar into the country per kilogram, we would have an annual income of more than $40 million in foreign exchange, and at this rate over the past 10 years we would have earned $400 million in foreign exchange, while the ministries could cover their budget shortfalls with $10 to $20 million.

Memos From the Deputies to the Nation's Officials

- Mr. Kavusi, Tuysarkan deputy: To the minister of roads and transport, concerning asphalt for the Tuysarkan-Asadabad and Tuysarkan-Nehavand roads.
- Mr. Taha'i, Tonekabon and Ramsar deputy: To the minister of housing and urban development, the

minister of the interior, and the Plan and Budget Organization, concerning the approval, compilation, and implementation of a comprehensive plan for the cities of Tonekabon and Ramsar and alleviating their potable water problems.

- Mr. Me'mari, Ahar deputy: To the minister of roads and transport, expedite construction operations for the main Tabriz-Ahar road, improve and asphalt the Tabriz-Ahar road.
- Mr. Seyyed Rasul-Musavi, Ahvaz deputy: To the minister of the interior, deal decisively and rapidly with the matter of the theft of homes and implements of transportation in Ahvaz and Khuzestan.
- Mr. Ja'fari-Esfahani, Lanjan deputy: To the judiciary, deal lawfully and more severely with those who have insulted the government workers and undermined the public order.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan on Urgency of Kashmir Solution

BK2006163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] The president has said that the world conscience is on trial in occupied Kashmir, where the current uprising and the use of brutal force to quell it has added a dimension of urgency to the peaceful solution of the problem. Speaking at the annual convocation of the National Defense College in Rawalpindi today, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan made it clear that Kashmir continues to be a disputed territory and cannot be dismissed as a settled issue. The president said it is in India's own long-term self-interest to allow the Kashmiri people their right to choose their destiny freely.

Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Pakistan is following a policy of peace with its neighbors on the basis of sovereign equality. Its desire for peace should be appreciated, and its sincerity should not be taken as a sign of weakness.

Stressing the need for self-reliance in defense production, the president said no nation could expect to be truly sovereign if it was totally dependent on others for its defense requirements.

The president later gave Masters of Science degrees to successful candidates.

Industrialists Refuse To Join Nationwide Strike

BK2206004690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1928 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Karachi, June 21 (AFP)—Industrialists and small traders refused Thursday [21 June] to join a call by Pakistani businessmen for a nationwide strike protesting the government's proposal to impose a tax, business sources said. "Trading on the Karachi stock exchange will not be affected as we are not a party to this strike call," Exchange Secretary Yaqub Memon said. Small businessmen and traders refused the strike, saying they had already suffered from ethnic violence and a curfew in the city.

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) had called the strike, saying the government refused to consider the group's reservations about the tax. The government proposed a general sales tax as part of its fiscal 1991 budget. FPCCI President Raja Abdul Rahman said the strike was aimed at repealing the proposal for the tax "affecting trade and industry (that) would cause revenue loss to the tune of 560 million rupees (25.45 million U.S. dollars) daily to the government."

Most of the shopping centres and other industrial units that had previously expressed support for the strike remained open, witnesses said. But reports from Punjab spoke of major success for the strike, although most of the industrial units and business remained open in Faisalabad, about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) to the north. Mr. Rahman said the strike was "successful" and that the next step would be decided in a meeting of FPCCI leaders Friday.

The reports said talks between the FPCCI and the government were scheduled for Saturday [23 June] in Islamabad.

The country's biggest industrial estate here, the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE), also declined to join the strike. "No doubt certain budgetary measures were harsh and detrimental to the country's economy, but the solution lies in free and frank dialogue and not militancy, SITE said.

Observers said the strike was politically motivated and was in reaction to the government's decision to increase wages in the new budget.

U.S. Kashmir Role Called 'Counterproductive'

BK1906101790 Lahore THE NATION in English 19 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Mediation on Kashmir"]

[Text] In reports about the chances of conflict between Pakistan and India, two well-known U.S. dailies have quoted Pengtagon and Bush Administration officials as still being apprehensive of the 'touch and go' situation in the subcontinent. The reports indicate that the U.S. was trying an even-handed approach to defuse the tension, by asking India to stop human rights violations and advising Pakistan not to support the militants. While even-handedness might have some advantages in mediatory diplomacy, it obviously neither seeks to resolve the problem nor remove the causes of a conflict. The object of the [Robert] Gates mission, according to the reports, thus was not to resolve the Kashmir dispute but to 'head off a war'. The interesting part of these reports, however, is that they attributed the recent reluctance by both sides to begin hostilities, as much to the summer heat and the coming of monsoons, as to the success of any mediatory effort. Actually the U.S. 'even-handedness' may have increased the chances of war. By telling Pakistan not to help the militants the U.S. may have helped India to become more rigid. India would interpret U.S. advice to Pakistan as substantiation of its charge of Pakistan's involvement in the uprising, which provides India with the excuse to commit all those brutalities.

In the longer run such diplomacy, therefore, is counterproductive. The important thing is to deprive India of honey excuses to wage a war and to eliminate the possibility of its acquiring a moral argument for its immoral acts. Though it is obvious that even after that the chances of peace would remain tenuous, because as the Kashmiris intensify their struggle the temptation to blame it on Pakistan will be too great to resist. And any Indian reverses suffered in Kashmir would be sought to be balanced by opening a front against Pakistan. Therefore, there is no escape from the root cause of the problem—which is the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. What India has to be made to see is that it is the kind of battle it cannot win. In the end that would be the only way to avert a war.

Customs Officials Seize 3,950 Kg of Charas

BK1706085590 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 90 p 9

[Text] Peshawar—The Customs Staff under a prior tip foiled attempt of smuggling a huge quantity of charas to Karachi from Tribal Areas through Dera Ismail Khan on Friday [15 June].

According to reports, Assistant Collector of the CU.-S.toms receiving information blocked Dera Darya Khan Road customs check post on bridge between Punjab and NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and the staff stopped the suspected truck. The suspected truck was loaded with timber but the brief search revealed that a huge quantity of charas was hidden under the timber.

Later, the customs on taking a detailed search of the truck, recovered 3,950 kg of charas from under the timber. Price of the seized charas was stated in millions. And according to driver and cleaner of the truck, the charas could be smuggled to Karachi for abroad smuggling.

The customs officials impounded the truck and registered a case against the driver Naqal Khan, son of Ali Marjan; and Aimeer Khan, son of Muuqadam Khan, resident of village Dosali, North Waziristan.

Second Hashish Seizure in 3 Days

BK1806153490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 18 (AFP)—Pakistani police Monday [18 June] seized 4,000 kilograms of hashish, foiling a second attempt in three days to smuggle the drug from the tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, officials said here.

The drugs were hidden inside an electricity transformer in a truck searched by the police at a checkpoint on the route from Darra Adam Khel, they said, adding that the driver was arrested.

An equal quantity of hashish was seized Saturday [16 June] from a truck coming from the tribal region.

Sri Lanka

Eastern Province Security Situation Updated

BK2106120490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Further improvement in the security situation in the Eastern Province has been reported by the government. The army camp at Kiran in the Batticaloa District, under siege by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists since the 11 June, has been freed and relief provided to the soldiers. Twenty soldiers, who were taken seriously ill by the use of chemical weapons by the LTTE terrorists on Kiran camp, were airlifted to the Polonnaruwa hospital. The security forces have also moved into Kalmunai. They are now in the process of clearing mines and other explosive devices planted by the retreating LTTE terrorists in Kalmunai as well as in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts.

The STF [Special Task Force] has consolidated its position in the Komari-Tirukkovil area and recovered large quantities of weapons during clearing operations. Reports indicate that the terrorists suffered severe casualties.

In the Jaffna peninsula, the terrorists continue to attack the fort and try to break in using three armored plated bucket-scrapers mounted with heavy guns [as heard]. The troops blew up the explosives in the bucket-scrapers with gunfire and destroyed them. Later in the day, the LTTE terrorists attempted to transport explosives by boat across the lagoon into the Jaffna fort area. The boat was blown up by the security forces and the terrorists killed.

The security forces are now in control of the Kankesanthurai harbor area. Two soldiers died and six were injured in the fighting at Kankesanthurai.

The preplanned, unprovoked and large-scale assault, launched by the LTTE terrorists in the Eastern Province, in particular, has resulted in the government having to look after thousands of refugees, who are now moving into Amparai, Polonnaruwa, and other safe areas. Some of them are critically ill having suffered gunshot injuries or torture by the LTTE terrorists.

The secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bernard Tilakaratna, has appealed to heads of foreign missions, including all ambassadors and high commissioners to assist to give medical supplies and food items for those in need.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports say that the security forces have defeated the LTTE at Mankulam, Kankesanthurai, Palali, and the Jaffna fort. They are now advancing.

LTTE Overruns Army Camp in North 21 Jun

BK2206073190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 22 (AFP)—Tamil rebels have overrun an army camp in Sri Lanka's north, and at least six to eight soldiers have gone missing, a military spokesman said here Friday [22 June].

Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) overran the Kondachchi camp, situated in a Cashew farm in northwestern Mannar region, late Thursday [21 June], the spokesman said. He gave no further details, and said the military command here had no idea how many guerrillas were involved in the attack.

Military sources however said an officer and 22 soldiers escaped from the Kondachchi camp, which had come under heavy mortar and small arms fire since early Thursday [21 June], and had linked up with other troops in the area. "We have reinforcements now moving towards Kondachchi," the sources said.

LTTE rebels also blasted a bridge elsewhere in Mannar, the sources said, adding that the guerrillas had showered rockets and mortars on four other army and naval camps in northern Jaffna and eastern Trincomalee districts.

Clashes were also reported from elsewhere in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeast, where hundreds have been killed since fighting broke out between government troops and the LTTE on June 11.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne announced Thursday that Sri Lankan troops had "liberated" the Eastern Province, but had "several fronts" in the north.

The fighting between the LTTE and the government, which have been holding peace talks since April 1989, erupted after Tamil rebels overran several police stations and seized hundreds of policemen.